

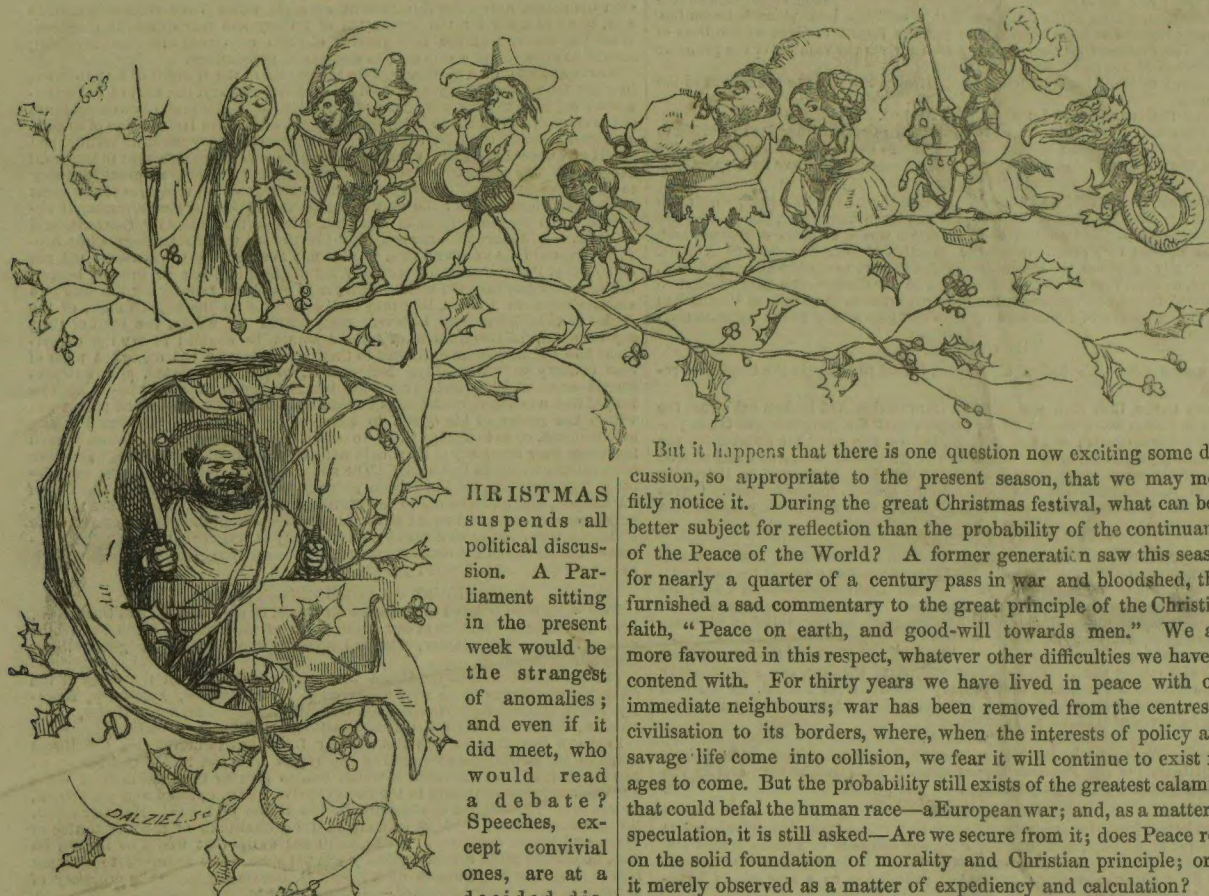
THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

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FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1847.

[SIXPENCE.]

THE PROSPECTS OF PEACE.



CHRISTMAS suspends all political discussion. A Parliament sitting in the present week would be the strangest of anomalies; and even if it did meet, who would read a debate? Speeches, except convivial ones, are at a decided dis-

count; all deliberative bodies withdraw for a time into silence; even parish vestries are mollified, and forget their small controversies. The usual materials for comment disappear.

But it happens that there is one question now exciting some discussion, so appropriate to the present season, that we may most fitly notice it. During the great Christmas festival, what can be a better subject for reflection than the probability of the continuance of the Peace of the World? A former generation saw this season for nearly a quarter of a century pass in war and bloodshed, that furnished a sad commentary to the great principle of the Christian faith, "Peace on earth, and good-will towards men." We are more favoured in this respect, whatever other difficulties we have to contend with. For thirty years we have lived in peace with our immediate neighbours; war has been removed from the centres of civilisation to its borders, where, when the interests of policy and savage life come into collision, we fear it will continue to exist for ages to come. But the probability still exists of the greatest calamity that could befall the human race—a European war; and, as a matter of speculation, it is still asked—Are we secure from it; does Peace rest on the solid foundation of morality and Christian principle; or is it merely observed as a matter of expediency and calculation?

At present, we fear the answer must assign the lower motives as the prevailing ones. And the future effect of our Legislation will be to encourage the sense of expediency. If Free Trade should ever expand into universal commerce, it is certain the world will see what

it has rarely seen yet—a universal peace. Men cannot trade and fight at the same time; though the last war proved that hostilities and a contraband commerce may, under some circumstances, exist together. It is safer, in the worldly sense, to rely on what appeals to men's interests than their reason; and, as the passion for gain is one of the strongest of human motives, it may be the best antagonist to those other bad passions which have plunged the world in war, and caused such frightful miseries. It is possible, therefore, that, in some future ages, when people have made themselves necessary to each other, they will cease to cut each others' throats. Had America sold us no cotton, the Oregon Boundary dispute would probably have produced a war. But, interest is a great peace-maker: causes of quarrel may arise in abundance; but it becomes a question whether it is prudent to pursue them to the last resort.

For the jingling of the guinea helps the hurt that honour feels,
And the nations do but murmur, snarling at each other's heels.

It is very undignified, perhaps, but, if they can exist better in grumbling than in fighting, it is something gained, and the "jingling of the guinea" has its use. It is a pity that so pure a principle as that of the love of peace should be most effectually preached by the more sordid and material instrument; yet Peace is a blessing from whatever motive maintained; it leaves a breathing time, at least, for other and better feelings to grow up, and may, in the end, make them the superior ones. We must accept it from the lower and less worthy influence before we can have it from the higher.

But the Peace so purchased is but an imperfect blessing, since it leaves nations in that state in which war is always a possibility. Mutual suspicions and jealousies, intentions and purposes ill understood, keep the world armed and on the defensive; it is not a perfect Peace so much as an imperfect war. We have everything that a state of war requires, except actual fighting; we keep the tools of destruction always ready, with the hope we shall have no occasion for them. Millions are sunk, with a prayer that the expenditure may be useless. Each country deals with its means of defence like *Mercutio* with his sword, who was used to lay it on the table with a "Heaven send me no need of thee;" and too often the knowledge that the deadly instrument is close at hand,



causes it to be drawn "when in truth there is no need." A boundary dispute, or a Royal marriage, are to nations just what "the operation of the third cup" was to the hasty Montague. It is of small moment what intoxicates men or nations, if, in their anger, they come to blows.

On two separate occasions within the last week or two the great champion of Free Trade has strongly pointed out its moral and pacific influence as the greatest of its results, superior in importance to its material effects. Perhaps he sees farther, or is more sanguine than most men; but on this point it seems to us his opinions are a little in extreme. He wishes at once to anticipate the better time, and place England one step at least nearer the Golden Age. He wishes to reduce our Army and Navy Estimates very considerably. By a misrepresentation he has been made to say the country could save the whole expenditure; and the statement has occasioned no slight surprise. He does not go so far; but he does contend that it is absurd for two countries like France and England to be perpetually forcing each other into a lavish expenditure of the national wealth, by useless additions to their fleets and armies, and fortifications. This is the feeling the existence of which is beginning to be denounced as unworthy of reasoning men. The £17,000,000 we spend on our Army and Navy is called a "horrible item." If war is to be henceforth impossible, it is not only horrible, it is foolish. If it can be proved that any portion of it is needless, we do not know any pleasanter anticipation for a Christmas week than the chance of saving some two or three millions; it is something to have even the chance of it held out to us; "the wish hath a preferment in it," though of its being realised we have more hope than expectation.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

The *Journal des Débats* gives the following sketch of the proceedings to be adopted by the members of the Chamber of Deputies previous and subsequent to the opening of the Chambers, on the 28th inst.:

"On the 27th inst., a preparatory sitting will be held by the members of the Chamber of Deputies, with closed doors, to select their officers. M. Sapey will, most probably, be the President, in consequence of being the oldest member. The four youngest members, MM. de Mérode, de la Guiche, Oscar de Lafayette, and Calmon, junior, will be appointed Secretaries. On the 29th, the day subsequent to the Royal sitting, the Deputies, after having balloted for committeemen, will proceed, in their respective committee-rooms, to examine the qualifications of the new deputies elected or re-elected since the last session. The Conservative party appears more than ever determined to vote for M. Sauzet, who, at the last election, obtained 223 votes out of 339. The Conservatives mean, further, to propose MM. Bignon, Lepelletier d'Aunay, F. Delessert, and Marshal Bugeaud, as Vice Presidents. The Conservative candidates for the functions of secretary are MM. de Bussières, Oger, Saglio, and Lanjuinais. These preparatory elections will probably occupy the 29th, 30th, and 31st instant, and the Committee on the Address cannot be appointed before Monday, the 3d of January. There are thirteen Parliamentary bills and four resolutions lying over since the last session. It is announced that the Ministers propose to present to the Chamber at the opening of the Session three bills—one reducing the tax on salt, the second for postal reform, and the third, granting a pension of 150,000 francs (£5000) to Jerome Bonaparte, ex-King of Westphalia, who has obtained permission to reside in France."

Lord Normanby, the British Ambassador, returned to Paris on Saturday, and had a long interview with the King, at the palace of St. Cloud, on Sunday.

M. Guizot's plan for the direction of the ensuing parliamentary campaign is said to be in substance as follows:—The Minister means to propose a slight modification of the electoral law of the year 1831, and to extend the franchise. He further proposes to introduce a bill to establish a reduced and uniform rate of postage; and another, to reduce the present tax on salt. With respect to the foreign affairs of the country, M. Guizot is prepared to show that his policy has been triumphant in Germany, Italy, Spain, Greece, throughout the East, and even in Switzerland!!!

The great affair of the day is the Presidency of the Chamber, and the Cabinet has caused it to be officially announced that it will retire if M. Sauzet be not nominated.

The result of the demand of interdiction made by Countess Mortier, has been a decision of the Court, ordering proofs to be given, with all speed, of the acts committed by Count Mortier, when in a state of hallucination on divers occasions, already publicly stated; and, for that purpose, an investigation has been ordered, to be commenced within the fortnight after the judgment was delivered; the Doctors Fabret, Leuret, and Foville, are to visit Count Mortier; and within a fortnight from the day on which the judgment was given, they shall give in a first report on the question of Mortier's being able, with safety, to be removed to an establishment not devoted to madmen.

According to the returns of the produce and consumption of domestic sugar in France since the commencement of the season, the number of manufacturers on the 1st inst. was 303, or 10 more than at the corresponding period of 1846; the quantity of sugar manufactured, and lying over since last year, amounted to 23,064,747 kilogrammes; that sold for consumption, to 8,263,847; and the duties levied thereon during the year, to 14,596,469.

At the general meeting of the refugee Poles, on the 29th ult., at the Salle Valentin, M. Bakounine, a Russian refugee, made a speech against the Emperor of Russia. M. Guizot, in consequence, caused to be given to M. Bakounine, by the Prefect of Police, an order to quit Paris in twenty-four hours, and France without the least delay. M. Bakounine, having inquired at the Prefecture of Police the cause of his expulsion, was told that the Ministerial decree merely stated that his presence was calculated to compromise public order and tranquillity, without mentioning any fact to justify the measure. M. Bakounine vainly addressed to the Minister himself a similar demand; he was obliged to quit Paris and France without having obtained a reply.

SPAIN.

No very salient point has recently presented itself to especial observation in the confused mass of intrigue, violence, and bad faith, which make up the sum of Spanish politics; and, in the consequent absence of that attention which was called off to the more stirring events in other parts of Europe, "the affairs of Spain," within the last few weeks, have been treated rather concisely in our "brief chronicle" of Foreign Intelligence—we therefore give a *resumé* of what our lively neighbours call "the situation" of political matters at Madrid.

The debate on the Address in the Chamber of Deputies lasted ten days—an unusual, if not an unprecedented, time in Spain. The important incident in it was the repeated declaration of Narvaez as to the constitutional and conciliatory spirit in which he declared himself to be resolved to carry on the Government. He illustrated these principles by a minute account of what had passed with reference to the return of E. pardo to his native country, and he protested that not only was there no obstacle to his return, but that he himself, his former rival, would be the first to take the exile by the hand, and reinstate him among the senators of the kingdom. This language produced intense irritation among the French faction in the Moderado party, and in the secret councils of Christina. Mon and Pidal spoke with great bitterness; and Christina herself, thinking to carry matters with a high hand, proceeded at once to the closet of her daughter, and demanded the dismissal of Narvaez from his post at the head of the Cabinet. Queen Isabella, however, happily preserved enough of clear-sightedness and resolution to resist the demands of her insatiable parent, and she refused to part with a Minister whose language, in speaking of Esparto, was no more than the fulfilment of her own gracious intentions towards that individual. Thus, on the one hand, Narvaez has pledged himself to a course which entitles him to the support of the national party, as long as he adheres to it; and, on the other, he has incurred the direct hostility of Christina and the French agents.

This schism has since been widened by an important incident which occurred a few days later. No sooner had the debate on the Address commenced in the Senate, (where it takes place after the debate in the Lower Chamber), than Senor Goyena, a man respected by all parties, the head of the last ephemeral Administration, rose from his seat, and having described the earnest solicitations by which the Queen had prevailed on him to accept the burdens of office with a view to rescue her from the dangers and embarrassments of her position, he adverted, amidst the breathless curiosity of the august assembly, to the unparalleled intrigues by which the last Ministerial revolution was accomplished, and the minions of France once more installed in the heart of the Spanish Court. He recapitulated some of those details which became known to the world at the time through the press, and which he, the then Prime Minister of Spain, could best of all living men corroborate—the misery and terror of the Queen, the treachery of those in whom she most confided, the unrelenting spirit of her oppressors. Then pulling a sealed packet of papers from his bosom, he added that these scandalous transactions could not now be made public in all their particulars, but that irrefragable evidence of the facts was there in his possession, and would be forthcoming at the proper time. The effect of this harangue is described to have been irresistible. It laid bare the foundations of the power which has usurped the Government of Spain. It opened an abyss between that section of the Conservative majority which is sincerely devoted to the service of the Crown, and that which is Conservative only in the interests of a foreign Prince, and it established the fact that the Cortes of Spain is still the safest guardian of the national honour.

This state of things renders it highly probable that Christina and the French party, at enmity with Narvaez, denounced in the Cortes, and detested by the nation, must either forfeit the position they have regained, or consummate their enterprise by some *coup d'état*. The plan for bringing the Duke and Duchess of Montpensier to Madrid, upon the requisition of the Cortes, has not been persisted in, however, from some motive or other.

The Senate terminated, on the 11th, the discussion on the Address in reply to the speech from the Throne. The eighth paragraph, containing a vote of censure against the Goyeda Cabinet, was adopted by 75 votes to 6.

SWITZERLAND.

The recent political agitation has been succeeded by a calm equally still as the preceding disturbance was violent.

There is no news of the slightest interest. The Diet was expected to meet on the 17th or 18th., to receive the Deputy from Neuchâtel, by whom the announcement of their submission to the decree of the 11th instant, for the payment of 300,000 Swiss francs, has been brought. It is worthy of notice, that, independently of this sum, 24,000 francs have already been subscribed in some districts of the canton of Neuchâtel for the wounded and the widows and orphans of those slain in the late war.

A grand dinner was given on the 16th, by the Vorort, at Bern, to Sir Stratford Canning and Mr. Peel, at which the representatives of Belgium and Spain were present.

The sum of 5,047,100f., ordered to be paid by the Swiss Cantons of the ex-Sonderbund for the expenses of the war, is divided as follows:—Lucerne, 2,132,000.; Uri, 96,760f.; Schwytz, 246,820f.; Unterwalden (Obwald), 90,610f.; do. (Nidwald), 66,010f.; Zug, 102,500f.; Fribourg, 1,525,200f.; Valais, 787,200f.

ITALY.

There is no news of any particular interest from Italy. The spirit of reform introduced by the leading crowned heads in the Peninsular, progresses gradually but earnestly and with success.

Advices from Massa, of the 9th, state that a collision took place between the Modenesse dragoons and the people, who put the former to flight with volleys of stones. The *Piedmontese Gazette* of the 16th revives the rumour of the probable annexation of Massa and Carrara to Tuscany.

The clergy of Siena have contributed 8000 francs towards the armament of the civic guard.

Ibrahim Pacha arrived at Lucra on the 12th inst. The Pope has summoned to Rome Count Pietro Ferretti, in order to confide to him an important financial mission. Lord Minto had a private audience of the Pope on the 9th inst.; his Lordship was shortly expected to leave for Naples.

GERMAN STATES.

The Germanic Diet held an extraordinary meeting on the 10th inst., which was convoked by the Vice-President. There were eleven members present, and six others represented. The subject of deliberation was the affairs of Switzerland, which at present very much engage the attention of both Prussia and Austria. The Diet fully approved the resolutions of the Powers towards Switzerland, and, moreover, decided that if Switzerland changed her Constitution and adopted an "Unitarian" form of Government, the Powers parties to the treaty of Vienna had a right to deprive her of the neutrality they had guaranteed to the Helvetic Confederation.

GREECE.

This unhappy land, the hotbed of impulse, is said to be again the theatre of revolution.

Advices to the 13th inst. state that an insurrection had broken out; that the garrison of Patras was attacked by the people; that the governor was taken prisoner by the insurgents; and the garrison, too weak to resist the numbers of the people, had been obliged to seek shelter in the fortresses, where supplies of food could scarcely reach them. The *Spitfire* steamer had been sent to Patras, to render all the assistance in her power to the English residents there. Grivas was reported to be the leader of the insurgents, who had already killed and wounded several.

RUSSIA.

The Emperor, on the 26th of November (the 8th of December), issued a manifesto, announcing that the Grand Duke Constantine has attained his majority; and, by a ukase of the same date, Vice-Admiral Lieutenant-General Lutke has been appointed Curator to his Imperial Highness. The Grand Duke, in order to signalise the day of his coming of age, has assigned, for the relief of the poor, 7500 rubles out of his privy purse.

The exportation of rye and other grain from Poland has been interdicted from the 13th of January next. This decision will, it is thought, cause great injury to the corn trade in Prussia, as that country imports from Poland, for its own use alone, 1,000,000 bushels of rye per annum, besides a large quantity of wheat, which it forwards to Holland by Dantzke.

PRUSSIA.

Counsellor Wedeck, who has his residence in Hanover, has been arrested there at the instigation of the Prussian Government. He is said to have grossly violated the confidence of a high personage.

ALGIERES.

All the letters from Oran state that Abd-el-Kader had made his submission to the Emperor of Morocco, and that the different columns of French troops stationed along the frontier had been ordered to return to their respective quarters. Some of these letters, however, describe this submission as a new act of hypocrisy by the Emir.

EGYPT.

The latest dates from Alexandria are to the 9th inst. Her Majesty's steam-ship *Sidon*, Captain W. Henderson, C.B., had arrived there on the 4th, having on board the Earl and Countess of Dalhousie, who, with their suite, left for Cairo on the following day in one of the Pasha's steamers, accompanied by Artim Bey, the Prime Minister. The latter was to attend upon the noble Earl by the orders of Mehmet Ali. His Excellency was to make a short stay at Cairo, to see Mehmet Ali, and was then to proceed to Suez, where he was expected to embark on the 10th, on board the steamer *Moosaffer* for India. Apartments had been prepared for Lord Dalhousie in Mehmet Ali's Palace at Ras-el-teen, but he preferred sleeping on board the *Sidon* during the night that he was in Alexandria. At Cairo, also, he was to have apartments in one of the Viceroy's palaces.

Mehmet Ali intended proceeding on a tour to the Upper Country. Trade continued dull in Alexandria. The preliminary surveys and levellings for the proposed canal through the Isthmus of Suez are progressing rapidly.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The accounts of the progress of the operations against the Kaffirs are of a cheering nature. Sandilla has fled from the Anatolia country, leaving it in undisturbed possession of the troops, who entered it in three columns. Sir George Berkeley will, however, move in pursuit, and probably strike a finishing blow at Pato and Crell on the Kei. Sandilla is reported to be willing to surrender unconditionally; this will produce the submission of Pato, and then, as there will only remain Crell to deal with, the war will soon be ended.

INDIA.

Despatches in anticipation of the Bombay mails of the 15th of November have been received. The intelligence is not of exciting interest.

India was tranquil. In Lahore, the Dussera festival had passed over in quiet. Sir F. Currie was named to succeed Colonel Lawrence on the departure of the latter from the Punjab, where he had performed the duties of British Plenipotentiary. The Sikh soldiers were behaving well under the guidance of the British, and had defeated a refractory tribe in the mountainous districts near Peshawur, who refused to pay their regular tribute. The Councilors at the capital had begun to quarrel amongst themselves from jealousy of each other, and Tej Singh had expressed his fears that he would be exiled, like his predecessor, Lall Singh. Sir F. Currie knows the character of the intriguers, and would, it was expected, effectually control them.

From Afghanistan we hear that Dost Mahomed was eager to have heavy guns, and had enticed some of the gun-founders from Peshawur to gratify his wishes. With heavy guns the passes of the mountains would, it is said, be rendered impregnable.

From Scinde there is no news of interest. The Governor of Bombay was expected there in December, and will traverse the whole of that country. The only sickness complained of on the banks of the Indus is the small-pox.

The Governor-General Lord Hardinge arrived at Meerut on the 1st of November, and proceeded to Cawnpore on the 2nd of that month. His Lordship was to remain at Cawnpore some days, and to proceed thence to Lucknow, where the King of Oude was making preparations for his reception. A number of robbers had collected under a native Rajah, and were about to plunder the Oude districts; but they were routed by Captain Magness, with some of the native forces.

The Nizam's country continued in its usual disturbed state. The Prime Minister had tendered his resignation in consequence of his inability to govern, while the Sovereign was labouring to paralyse all the efforts made to arrange the finances. A strange act of cruelty is related of the Nizam's brother. Having detected his wife in some crime, he caused her to be enclosed in a room built up around her, and seven of her slave girls to be locked up in another apartment, having only eyelet holes through which he could witness their dying agonies. The relatives of the wife interfered, but in vain; they were obliged to obtain troops to attack the house, when she was released, nearly dead, from the horrible dungeon.

The Goomsoor districts remained in their former unsettled state. The Rajah of Ungool had not yet made his submission. The line of conduct ordered to be adopted towards those refractory districts had not yet been carried into effect.

Large quantities of rain had fallen in the south and west of India, which had produced flushes in the rivers. The late crops would derive considerable benefit from the rains.

The intelligence of the numerous failures in Europe, during the months of August, September, and October, had produced much alarm in India. The alarm Bombay continued, in consequence of more failures in England being apprehended.

The following casualties by death in the armies of India, since the departure of the mail of the 1st of November, are reported in the Indian papers:—

Her Majesty's Troops: Ensign McBeath, 25th Foot, at Cananore, on the 23rd of October. Bengal: Lieutenant J. Edwards, 30th Regiment, Adjutant of the 2nd Regiment Frontier Brigade, at Kangra, on the 20th of October; Lieutenant J. M. Swinton, 53rd Regiment, at Chunar, on the 28th of October; Surgeon R. McIntosh, 42nd Regiment, at Delhi, on the 31st of October.

CHINA.

Our advices from Hong Kong are to the 30th of October. The Peninsular and Oriental steamer *Lady Mary Wood* had arrived late on the 17th of that month, with the mail of the 24th of August, from London.

At Canton all remained quiet. Sir John Davis had left Hong Kong in her Majesty's steamer *Vulture*, on the 6th inst., for Cochin China, on a special mission to that Court, accompanied by her Majesty's ship *Ringdove*, and only returned just before the departure of the mail. Sir John had not succeeded in obtaining an interview with the King of Cochin China, or admission to the capital, Hue (about eleven miles up the river); but nothing could exceed the civility and attention, amounting almost to servility, shown to him by all the high authorities. They were evidently under great alarm, the cruel treatment of the French in April last being fresh in their recollection.

His Excellency spent seventeen days in endeavouring to open negotiations. It was, however, the wet season on that coast, the country around was inundated,

and during the whole of the time the rain continued excessive. On the 23rd, a typhoon was experienced, and Sir John and Captain Macdougall were driven on shore in their boats, which afforded an opportunity to the mandarins for renewing their attentions and supplying them with every means of accommodation on shore.

Rear-Admiral Inglefield had sailed from Hong Kong in her Majesty's ship *Vernon*, on the 20th of October, for Manila and the Straits. The old garrison, the 18th Royal Irish, and the 42nd Madras Native Infantry, were to embark early in November for India.

The markets for imports had been dull at Canton during the month of October, and the prices of most of the staple articles had either receded or were quite nominal, from the difficulty of effecting sales, except in barter. Money was becoming scarce, and the rate of interest high.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

The House met at four o'clock, when the Royal Assent was given by Commission to the Public Works (Ireland) Bill, the Crime and Outrage (Ireland) Bill, and the Railways Bill.

BIBERY AT ELECTIONS.—Lord Brougham gave notice that he would, shortly after the recess, unless the Government or some noble Lord should anticipate him, bring in a bill for the prevention of bribery and corruption at elections. What had occurred at the late general election convinced him that something should be done to put a stop to such disgraceful proceedings.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE.—On the motion of the Marquis of Lansdowne, that the House should adjourn until the 3rd of February, the Earl of Ellenborough objected to such a lengthened adjournment in the present circumstances of the country. The bill to suppress crime and outrage in Ireland was of so mild a character that it could hardly be expected to produce very material results, and the House should therefore continue sitting to pass more stringent measures if necessary. The very fact of their so sitting would of itself have a great tendency to quell those outrages. Since the meeting of Parliament no measures of any great moment had been passed; the only energetic steps taken by the Government appeared to be for the purpose of admitting a few millionaires to Parliament, and of casting a firebrand amongst the Clergy of the Established Church. The Marquis of Lansdowne said, it was only because the Government did not believe that Parliament could with any useful effect legislate at present beyond the step they had taken in their endeavour to provide a remedy for the disorders and outrages in Ireland, that they had consented to the adjournment of the House at that period. He believed, that, within six weeks, the limit of their adjournment, the Government of Ireland would be enabled to try the experiment how far the powers entrusted to them would restore the disturbed parts of that country to tranquillity. But even if, within that period, circumstances should arise which should prove the insufficiency of the measure—though he prayed God no such circumstances might arise—the noble Lord knew that it was within the power of the Queen to convene Parliament, notwithstanding any adjournment, so as to enable them to adopt more efficacious measures, if such measures were necessary. He should not follow the noble Earl through the other observations which he had made. The noble Earl had stated various reasons why other measures should have been brought forward in this early session of Parliament, and had referred to one particular measure. That measure the Government had brought forward to complete the representation in the other House of Parliament; for, until a decision on that subject was come to, the representation of the people in the other House must necessarily remain imperfect. (Hear hear.)—Adjourned to Thursday, February 3.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

New writs were ordered to be issued for Calne, in the room of Lord Shelburne, who has accepted the office of one of the Lords of the Treasury; and for Wells, in the room of Mr. Hayter, who has accepted the office of Judge-Advocate-General.

The SPEAKER informed the House that the recognizances in the cases of the following election petitions were approved, viz.:—Carlow, Aylesbury, Bewdley, North Staffordshire, Nottingham, Harwich, Andover, Stafford, Hythe, Cheltenham, Colchester, North Essex, Newcastle-under-Lyne, and Walsall.

PRIVATE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Mr. LABOUCHERE moved that the House agree to the resolutions contained in the report from the Select Committee on private business, the substance of which was to give to the Chairman of Ways and Means similar authority in the cases of private bills, opposed and unopposed, as was exercised by Lord Shaftesbury in the House of Lords. The right hon. gentleman said that, although he doubted if the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means could perform the additional duties that would be thrown on him, he did not think the impossibility was yet sufficiently apparent to warrant him in proposing an additional officer.—Sir R. INGOLIS suggested the propriety of appointing an Assistant-Speaker.—Motion agreed to.

JEWISH DISABILITIES BILL.

On the motion of Lord J. Russell, this bill was read a first time, and the second reading was fixed for the 7th of February next.

Colonel SIBTHORP wished to know from the Prime Minister what would be the consequence, should the House sit on Saturdays, and even on Friday evenings, and should the Jews whom he proposed to admit refrain to attend. He (Colonel Sibthorp) anticipated that the noble Lord and his new associate Mr. Gladstone would ere long propose the admission of Mahomedans; and, indeed, he should not be surprised if the noble Lord should some day propose the devil himself for admission to Parliament. (Laughter.)

Lord J. RUSSELL said that the usual course, in case of a call of the House, was to take a member refusing to appear into custody, from which he might afterwards be discharged on paying the fees. He thought he could answer for the Jews that they would readily pay the penalty should they not appear when called.

STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

On the motion that the House adjourn from its rising to Thursday, Feb. 3, Mr. SPOONER called attention to the distress existing in the manufacturing districts, and deprecated so long an adjournment. Nothing had been in reality done to relieve the suffering industry of the country, and the Bank of England was still left bound by the shackles of the Act of 1844. The hon. member moved, as an amendment, that the House adjourn to the 15th January.

Mr. NEWDEGATE bore testimony to the lamentable prospects in the midland counties, and seconded the amendment.

Mr. MONSELL and Mr. P. SCROPE urged the necessity of preparing measures to give employment to the people of Ireland.

Mr. HINDLEY complained that there had been a want of energy and stringency in the two measures for the passing of which it seemed Parliament had been convened at so early a period.

Lord LINCOLN, Colonel SIBTHORP, and Sir LUCIUS O'BRIEN made a few remarks.

Mr. GLADSTONE expressed a hope that the Minister would give an assurance that he would bring forward a measure on the subject of the Navigation Laws, in time sufficiently early to obtain the decision of Parliament upon it. The present session was peculiarly fitted for the consideration of the question, and he thought it ought to be settled before the termination of this session.

Mr. HERBES recommended Mr. Spooner not to press his amendment.

Lord J. RUSSELL said that, as the Government would not be asked for public money to support the unemployed people of England, so no money out of the Imperial Treasury could be given to the unemployed poor of Ireland, unless it should be clearly shown that all the means obtainable under the Irish Poor Law Act were exhausted. He was not able to say when he would introduce a measure relative to the Navigation Laws, but he was fully alive to the necessity of bringing it forward at such a time as to obtain for it full discussion. He likewise wished to introduce immediately after the recess some of the Irish remedial measures which had been promised. The Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland was applying himself to the consideration of the state of Ireland with his usual vigour and energy; that consideration would not rest in empty declarations or words; and in the meantime, it was of the utmost importance that every assistance should be given by the Government to the noble Lord in carrying into effect the Act for the Prevention of Crime and Outrage in Ireland.

Mr. SPOONER withdrew his amendment, and the motion for the adjournment of the House to the 3rd of February was agreed to.

A great number of notices of motion for after the recess were given. Amongst others,

Mr. BROTHERTON gave notice to move for a Select Committee to consider the necessity of abolishing the office of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL gave notice to move to bring in four bills to facilitate the performance of the duties of magistrates at quarter sessions.

Mr. HERBES fixed the 8th of February for his motion on the currency.

Mr. AUGUSTUS STAFFORD gave notice that, on the motion for the second reading of the Jewish Disabilities Bill, he would move, as an amendment, that the bill be read a second time that day six months.

Lord GEORGE BENTINCK fixed the 3rd of February for his motion for a Select Committee to inquire into the present condition and prospects of the East and West India sugar planting interests, and to consider whether any and what measures might be adopted for their relief.

Lord MORLEY gave notice that on the 10th of February he would move for leave to bring in a bill for promoting the public health.

To a question put by Mr. HORSMAN, Sir GEORGE GREY replied that Lord Ashley had, some time ago, expressed a desire to retire from the Ecclesiastical Commission, and Lord Sandon had been nominated in his stead.

Several unopposed returns were ordered.

The NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT BILL was read a second time, and was ordered to be committed on the 4th of February.

The Report of the Committee of Supply was received.

The House adjourned at half-past eight o'clock to Thursday, the 3rd of February.

ESCAPE OF SEVEN PRISONERS FROM HUNTINGDON GAOL.—At an early hour on Thursday morning (last week), Mr. Smith, the Governor, discovered that seven of the nine prisoners who had been confined in a ward for trial were gone. Nearly all the locks of the cells had been forcibly opened, and the straw beds having been emptied upon the floors, the bed-cases had been securely attached to each other by a "sailor's knot," and formed a rope, by which they scaled the boundary wall, having first broken asunder a solid iron bar in the fence of the ward, 1½ inch square, and ten feet long, which passed through an area where a watch-dog ranged the interior of the prison by night; he, however, gave no alarm. During Thursday, the prison was inspected by J. B. Rooper, Esq., J. M. Heathcote, Esq., two of the visiting justices; also, by the Right Hon. the Earl of Sandwich, P. Tillard, Esq., and numerous others of the gentry of the town and county, who observed the great skill and the dexterity by which the plan for the escape had been executed.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

A rumour has been circulated that Louis Philippe intended to abdicate in favour of his grandson the Count de Paris. We have received no confirmation of the rumour.

The bank-notes and cheques, to the value of £7866 Os. 7d., stolen from the clerk of Messrs. Strahan, Pau, and Co., in February last, have been sent back to the banking-house, in a parcel, containing the identical notes and cheques, with the exception of one country bank note of the value of five pounds.

The Convocation protest in favour of Dr. Hampden has received already upwards of 250 signatures, including the names of Monson, Portman, Say-and-Sale, the Master of Pembroke College, &c.

The Countess Dowager Cathcart expired at Cathcart House, the family seat in Renfrewshire, on Tuesday (last week), at a very advanced age, being on the verge of her 90th year.

A policeman at Manchester has been dismissed from the force for buying fire-arms from the pawnbrokers for the purpose of sending them to Ireland.

Mr. Hayter, M.P. for Wells, has been appointed to the office of Judge Advocate-General.

The wife of a solicitor in the county of Nottingham lately gave birth to a son, being the eleventh child of the same sex in uninterrupted succession.

A Staffordshire overseer was discovered, at a recent parish meeting, to have made 63 weeks in a year! and he had also made an entry about "county rates!" The constable, whose laugh at the overseer was the loudest, next produced his account, including a charge for a "conquest" on a dead man!

Mr. Curteis, son of the late respected member for Rye, is a candidate for that borough; and, as far as present appearances go, the only one likely to have any chance of success.

The 500th anniversary of Pembroke College, Cambridge, will be celebrated on Friday, the last day of the year. Gray, the author of the "Elegy," and other great names, are associated with this ancient College.

On Saturday information was received by private letter in the metropolis, that the late convict, Barber, who was banished from this country some years since, has received a free and unconditional pardon, and that he left Sydney on the 16th of August last.

It is a remarkable fact, that whilst the influenza has proved so fatal in the metropolis, not excluding the West-end, Brighton has been entirely exempt from the epidemic.

The sum of 5,047,100*l.*, ordered to be paid by the Swiss Cantons of the ex-Sonderbund, for the expenses of the war, is divided as follows:—Lucerne, 2,132,000*l.*; Uri, 96,700*l.*; Schwytz, 246,820*l.*; Unterwald (Obwald), 90,610*l.*; Ditto (Nidwald), 66,010*l.*; Zug, 102,500*l.*; Fribourg, 1,525,200*l.*; Valais, 787,200*l.*

The Madrid Bank of San Fernando has remitted £80,000 to London, to pay the dividend on the Three per Cents. due on the 1st of January.

The Legislative Council of Neuchâtel has unanimously resolved to pay the 300,000*l.* demanded by the Federal Diet of Switzerland.

The sanitary measures to which vessels arriving from France in the Roman States were subjected since the 26th of November, have been suppressed.

The eight Poles condemned to death at Berlin, for participation in the late insurrectionary movement, have had their sentence commuted to perpetual imprisonment.

The members of the Jewish persuasion in Exeter have an address in preparation to the Pope, for his many acts of kindness to their brethren in Rome.

The trustees of the Vernon Collection have selected Mr. Haghe's large water-colour drawing as one of the pictures composing the Vernon gift to the National Gallery.

Lord Shelburne is to be the new Lord of the Admiralty, to succeed Lord Ebrington, who has accepted the office of one of the Secretaries to the Poor Law Commission.

Monsignor Ferrieri, the Envoy of the Pope to the Sultan, embarked on the 14th inst. for Constantinople, in a ship of war, placed at the disposal of his Holiness by the King of Sardinia.

The packet-ship *Roscius*, Captain Moore, arrived in the Mersey on Sunday evening. She sailed from New York on the 1st inst., and brings £50,000 in specie on freight.

Vice-Admiral Peter Riboulean died on the 16th inst.

On the 1st of August last, there were 25,000 English residing at Paris and in the environs; at Boulogne, 7000; at Calais, 4000; and 25,000 resident in other parts of France. Their expenses are reckoned altogether at £5,000,000.

Count de Gasser, representative of Bavaria in the Germanic Diet, has just been nominated Ambassador to France, and he is to be succeeded in the Diet by M. d'Abel, who has been recalled from Turin.

A Society has recently been formed at Berlin, similar to that established at Hamburg, for the purpose of removing the social schism which exists between the Jews and Christians of Prussia. The society already numbers 200 members, all Christians, amongst whom are several artists, men of letters, and Protestant and Roman Catholic clergymen.

Mr. Charles Buller, on Saturday last, took his seat at the board-room of the Poor Law Commission-office, Somerset-house, as President of the new Board of Poor Law Commissioners.

Royal letters patent of the King of Sardinia have been published, by which the same franchises and reforms are promised to the Island of Sardinia that have been introduced into Piedmont.

A meeting of Prussian holders of Spanish bonds was held at Berlin on the 11th, at which a committee was appointed with instructions to make common cause with the committees of London, Paris, and Amsterdam.

M. Kiliot-Constant, colonel in the service of the Swiss Diet, has been appointed Chargé d'Affaires of Switzerland at Paris, in place of M. Tschann, deceased.

The King of Sardinia has ordered the fortifications of Genoa and other points of the coast of his dominions to be placed in a state of defence.

Lord Sandon is to be a member of the Ecclesiastical Commission, in the room of Lord Ashley.

In virtue of a recent decree of the King of Sweden, no sailing ships of the line are to be constructed in future; those now afloat are to be preserved, but modified; and the principal force of the Swedish navy is to consist of steamers. The fleet is composed of 272 vessels of war (32 of which are steamers), manned by 21,608 seamen.

The Chargé d'Affaires of Spain in Paris has published a notice informing the holders of Spanish Three per Cent. Stock that his Government had placed at the disposal of the London and Paris committees the sums necessary to pay the dividend due on the 31st of December.

The Queen of Spain has conferred the Cross of Charles III. on M. Salvador Zabban, correspondent of the *Espanol* in Paris.

M. Pacheco, former President of the Council in Spain, and Ambassador at Rome, has arrived at Marseilles on his way back to Madrid.

On Tuesday (last week) the Countess Guiccioli, the friend of Byron, was married to the Marquis de Boissy, Peer of France, at the chapel of the Palace of the Luxembourg.

Several of the Polish refugees, lately acquitted at Berlin, presented, previous to quitting that capital, considerable donations to public charities, in all amounting to 14,000 thalers (56,000*l.*).

A Cabinet Council was held on Monday afternoon at the Foreign Office.

£1000 has been appropriated by the South Australian British Destitution Relief Committee, for the benefit of the poor of the mother country.

The Berks and Hants Extension Railway, which had been inspected by the Government officer on Saturday, was opened for public traffic on Tuesday.

The cause of Bunn v. Jenny Lind, the celebrated cantatrice, for alleged breach of contract, and which was to have been tried at the present sittings of the Queen's Bench at Guildhall, is postponed to the next term.

The contributions of the licensed victuallers of the metropolis, and their friends, towards the Epsom Spring Races, have enabled the stewards to add a bonus of £500 to the Great Metropolitan Handicap; the horses for which must be named on the 1st of January.

Earl Brownlow is much indisposed at his Lordship's mansion in Belgrave-quare.

A deputation from the Committee of the Anti-interment in Towns Association, had an interview with Viscount Morpeth on Tuesday, at the office of the Woods and Forests.

The Royal Commission for inquiring into the Merchant Seamen's Fund held a meeting at the Board of Trade on Tuesday.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS RECENTLY DECEASED.

SIR CHARLES GRANVILLE STUART MENTEATH, BART., OF CLOSEBURN, CO. DUMFRIES.



This excellent and public-spirited gentleman died at Edinburgh on the 3rd inst., deeply lamented. Few were so thoroughly identified with the interesting and picturesque section of the country, the Nith Waters; and fewer still ever laboured with the same assiduity, intelligence, and skill, to render a broad domain alike improving, fruitful, and ornamental—in short, an honour to the whole South of Scotland. Among the earliest and most ardent reclaimers of land, Sir Charles had no equal in his own county; and, during a long life, he established, by his kindly feelings, and generous sympathies, a claim to the regard of thousands.

Paternally descended from the famous historic family of Menteath, the deceased Baronet was, through his mother, derived from the great English house of Huntingdon, and thus allied to the Royal line of Plantagenet. The name of Menteath is local, a considerable district in North Britain, through which the river Teath runs, being called the Stewartry of Menteath. Of the original family, which thence assumed its designation, the heiress, the Countess of Menteath, married, in 1258, Walter, third son of the High Steward of Scotland, and became foundress of the Menteaths, Earls of Menteath, and the Menteaths of Ruskey, West Carse, and Closeburn. To Sir John Menteath, Governor of Dumbarton Castle, tradition ascribes (whether truly or not is still a point of historic doubt) the surrender of Sir William Wallace.

Sir Charles Menteath, whose death we record, was born 15th May, 1769, and had thus completed his seventy-eighth year. By Ludivina, his wife, daughter of Thomas Loughnan, Esq., and granddaughter of Robert Ferguson, Esq., of Craigdarroch, he has left seven sons and two daughters: the eldest of the former is the present Sir James Stuart Menteath, Bart., of Closeburn, and the elder of the latter is Philadelphia, Countess of Marr.

PRINCE PAUL OF WURTEMBERG.

PRINCE PAUL CHARLES FREDERICK AUGUSTUS OF WURTEMBERG was son of Frederick, late King, and brother of William, present King of Wurtemberg. He was born on the 19th June, 1785, and married, the 28th September, 1805, the Princess Catharine Charlotte, daughter of the Frederick, late Reigning Duke of Saxe-Altenburg. Prince Paul leaves issue, by his consort, who survives him, two sons, Prince Frederick and Prince Augustus, and two daughters, one the Grand Duchess Helena, wife of the Grand Duke Michael of Russia, the other the Duchess Dowager Pauline of Nassau. The death of Prince Paul occurred recently, after a painful and protracted illness.

MAJOR-GENERAL STEELE.

This gallant officer, who died on the 1st inst., at his residence near Richmond, Surrey, entered the army in 1804, and became a general officer in 1847. He served with the Coldstream Guards in the Peninsula during the greater period of the war.

MAJOR LUARD.

MAJOR GEORGE LUARD, late of the 16th Lancers, was a distinguished officer in the British service. He was with our armies in the Peninsula, France, and Flanders, from 1809 to the peace. He entered the army as a Cornet, in 1802, and retired on half pay, in 1826. Major Luard died on the 19th instant, at Salisbury, aged fifty-nine.

MR. BRANDON.

MR. JOSHUA ARTHUR BRANDON, of Beaufort-buildings, was a rising architect, of great promise. He was one of the authors of the "Analysis of Gothic Architecture." His recent early death, at the very outset of his career, is deeply to be regretted.

THOMAS BARKER.

This gentleman, who may be styled the patriarch of English artists, was an exhibitor of the British Institution for nearly half a century. Mr. Barker painted the well-known picture of "The Woodman," and also other popular pictures; all of which, during the last sixty years, have been copied thousands of times. The painting of "The Woodman," which was executed at the early age of fifteen, and which was the likeness of a gardener near Bath, was sold to Alderman Boydell for seven hundred guineas. Mr. Barker died recently at Bath. Although his years numbered nearly four score, his mental powers continued to retain all the vigour and freshness of youth.

FATAL RESULT OF A RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—On the 27th of October last, Mr. Ross, the superintendent of the Glasgow and Greenock Railway, slipped in coming off a locomotive engine at the Port Glasgow station, his feet got entangled with the wheels of the engine while it was yet in motion, and it was found necessary to amputate one limb, and part of the foot of the other. For a time he seemed to do well, but from the first, Mr. Ross's advanced years, and the great injury he had sustained, prevented any sanguine hope being entertained of his recovery, and notwithstanding all that medical skill could accomplish, he died on Tuesday last.

MAINTENANCE DISASTERS.—Amongst the casualties in the Bristol Channel, during the past week, are the brig *Duca de Genova*, from Odessa, with wheat, to Messrs. Spiller and Brown, of Bridgewater, driven ashore at Burnham, near Highbridge Pill, during the gale of Monday night. The large barque *Francis Lawson*, from Quebec to Bridgewater, timber laden, wrecked the same night, near Minehead Pier; and another barque stranded near Swansea.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Senex."—There is a good deal of Chess-play, we are told, at New Orleans, although the strongest player, Mr. Rousseau, is no longer a resident there. Of its progress in the other places named we know nothing.

"N. J. A. M."—Your continued prate about "patronage" is facetious enough. Of what earthly consequence do you suppose it can be to us where you send your Problems? We have, at least, five hundred similar effusions at anybody's service. In the Diagram last sent, mate can be given in three moves.

"Lutonian."—Of what use is it to send us solutions of Problems published months ago? We have neither time nor opportunity to be constantly referring to back Numbers. The solution of Problem 200 appeared in the following week's paper. That to which you refer, in the No. for December 4th, is the key to No. 201.

"W. P. S."—Stalemate, in this country, is a drawn game. "Lynx" is not very sharp-sighted, or he must have seen that, as corrected, No. 202 cannot possibly be solved in less than four moves.

"N. J. A. M."—In your second diagram, the mate is quite impracticable, as you have omitted White's centre Pawns.

"J. R. P."—The work you mention was first published by Ogilvie, if we mistake not, in 1806, and subsequently by Baldwin. The author's name is not known. Books on Chess of that date have been quite superseded by the modern works.

"B. C."—We do not remember the Problems to which you allude.

"G. A. H."—Enigma No. 242, by Mr. Annett, may, as you say, be solved in two moves.

"Oras." "Ambulator."—No 243 is quite right. Look again.

"Lincoln Chess Club."—If the members of the Oxford Chess Club desire a contest with the Lincoln players, their communications may be addressed to the President, the Rev. A. F. Padley, Asylum Terrace, Lincoln.

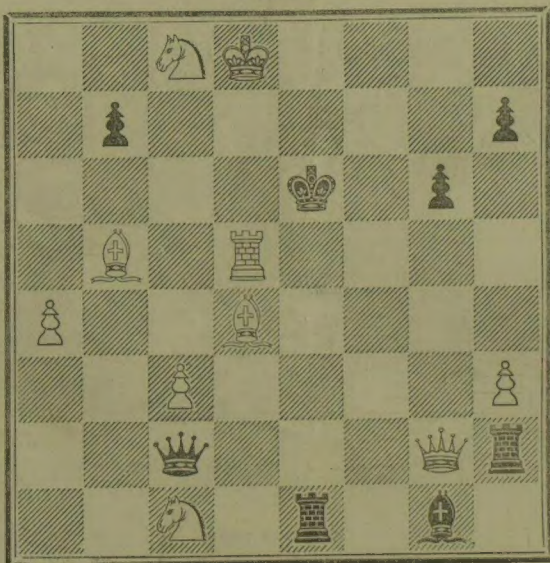
"A. Z. B. Y."—It shall not be forgotten. "Solutions by 'Sopraccita,' 'T. R.,' 'Woodstockensis,' 'R. O. S. E.,' 'Muff,' 'J. A. G.,' 'Sigma,' 'White Rook,' 'B. C.,' 'G. A. H.,' 'H. P. L.,' 'Ambulator,' 'A. Z. B. Y.,' 'Miles,' are correct.

PROBLEM, NO. 205.

By W. H. C.

White playing first mates in four moves.

BLACK.



WHITE.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM No. 204.

WHITE. BLACK. WHITE. BLACK.
1. Kt takes Q B P K B P one
2. B to Q 3d P takes B
3. R to K B 4th (ch) P takes R
4. K P one (mate)

CHESS IN THE METROPOLIS.

GAME PLAYED BETWEEN MESSRS. HARRWITZ AND S.—S.

WHITE (Mr. H.)	BLACK (Mr. S.)	WHITE (Mr. H.)	BLACK (Mr. S.)
1. K P two	K P two	14. B to Q R 3d	B P one
2. K Kt to B 3d	Q Kt to B 3d	15. B to Q B 4th	B to Q B 2d
3. K B to Q B 4th	K B to Q B 4th	16. Q Kt to K 4th	P takes P
4. Q Kt P two	B takes Kt P	17. B takes P	Kt takes B
5. Q B P one	B to R 4th	18. Q takes Kt	Kt to K 2d
6. Castles	B to Q Kt 3d	19. Q to Q Kt 3d	Q P one
7. Q P two	P takes P	20. Q to Q Kt 3d	Q B takes P
8. P takes P	Q P one	21. Q takes Q Kt P	R to Q B sq
9. Q P one	Kt to K 2d	22. K Kt to Q 4th	B to Q 2d
10. K P one	Kt to Kt 3d	23. Q takes Q P	K to K sq
11. K P one	K B P one	24. Q to K R 4th (ch)	K Kt to Kt 3d
12. B to Q Kt 5th (ch)	K to B sq	25. K R to K sq	B to K 4th
13. Q Kt to B 3d	K Kt to K 2d	26. Q Kt to Q 6th (ch)	Black resigns

BETWEEN THE SAME PLAYERS.

WHITE (Mr. H.)	BLACK (Mr. S.)	WHITE (Mr. H.)	BLACK (Mr. S.)
1. K P two	K P two	17. K P one	R to K sq
2. K Kt to B 3d	Q Kt to B 3d	18. Q R to K 3d	Q Kt P two
3. K B to Q B 4th	K B to Q B 4th	19. B to Q Kt 3d	Q B to Kt 2d
4. Q Kt P two	B takes P	20. B to Q B 2d	B to Q B sq
5. Q B P one	B to Q R 4th	21. K P one	P takes P
6. Castles	B to Q Kt 3d	22. P takes P	Kt to K 2d (a)
7. Q P two	P takes P	23. R to K B 3d	Q B P two
8. P takes P	Q P one	24. R to Kt 3d (ch)	Kt to Kt 3d
9. Q P one	K Kt to K 2d	25. Q to Q 5th	Q to K 2d
10. B to Q Kt 2d	K Kt to B 3d	26. Q takes Q R	B to Q Kt 2d
11. B takes Kt	P takes B	27. Q to Q R 7th	K to R sq
12. Kt to Q 4th	Castles	28. B takes P	Kt takes P
13. K B P two	Kt to K Kt 3d	29. Kt to K 4th	Kt to K R 4th
14. Q Kt to B 3d	B takes Kt (ch)	30. R to K B 3d	Q to Q B 2d
15. Q takes B	Q R P one	31. Kt takes Q P	R to Q R
16. K R P one	P to K B 4th	32. Q takes B (b); and wins.	

(a) Had he taken the Pawn, White would have had a still finer attack.
(b) The advantage gained in the position at the outset is cleverly maintained by Mr. Harrwitz throughout.

CHESS ENIGMAS.

No. 244.—By H. S., of Preston.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
K at his sq	K at Q 4th	B at Q R 7th	
Q at Q Kt 6th	P at K 4th and	P at Q R 2d	
R at Q R sq	Q B 6th	White to play, and mate in four moves.	

No. 245.—By Mr. ANNETT.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
K at K B 5th	K at K R 4th	B at Q B 5th	Bs at K R 3d and
R at Q 4th	R at Q 2d	P at K Kt 2d	Q B sq
		Whoever plays first can mate in three moves.	

No. 246.—By S. LEOW.

This clever stratagem we owe to the *Berliner Schachzeitung*.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
K at Q B 5th	K at Q R 5th	P at Q Kt 2d	P at Q Kt 6th and
R at K R 6th	B at Q Kt 4th		Q R 3d
		White to play, and mate in four moves.	

CHRISTMAS PICTURES.

In another page, we have glanced, by way of picture, at the olden glories of Christmas—bygone, in all probability, never to be resuscitated.

It is hardly worth while to enquire what has led to the discontinuance of the spectacles of this festive season; or, rather, what has diverted men's joy at the return of the day—from to us unseemly revel, and roistering—into channels of holier observance, and of rejoicing, tempered with moderation and pious reflection.

The religious commemoration of the day remains intact, as an ecclesiastical usage coeval with the great event which it keeps in remembrance. "The close of the year," says a late illustrator of our "Feasts and Fasts," "brought round in the Western, and from the age of Chrysostom also in the Eastern, Church, the celebration of the birth of Christ; to use the words of the father whom we have just named, that 'most venerable, most astonishing, of festivals, the fountain whence the other great festivals flowed, for had Christ not been born he would not have been baptised, which is the Epiphany; he would not have been crucified, which is the Passover; he would not have sent down the Spirit, which is Pentecost. But not only on that account,' he continues, 'is this festival worthy of pre-eminence, but because what happened upon it is more astonishing than what happened upon the others; for that Christ should die was a natural consequence of his having been born a man; for though he did no sin, yet he had assumed a mortal body; but that being God, he should be willing to become man, and to endure to humble himself to a degree which thought cannot follow, is most awful, most full of amazement.'"

Hence, we find the observance of the festival to have been almost entirely spontaneous. In the work just quoted it is stated that "Christmas Day, like Sunday, was forbidden to be kept as a fast by the Council of Braga (A.D. 563); which anathematized such as 'did not duly honour the birthday of Christ, according to the flesh, but pretended to honour it by fasting on that day,' a practice attributed by this canon, and by Pope Leo the First, to the same conception which led to the practice of fasting on the Lord's Day, namely, the belief that Christ was not truly born in the nature of man. But, as the practice, probably, became extinct in later times, no repetition of this canon has come within our observation. Nor are we acquainted with any other positive regulations specially affecting the observance of Christmas."

We pass from these sacred usages to the more secular observances which our Artists have this year chosen for their illustration of the season. And, first, of

CHRISTMAS EVE.

The old poets have left us many charming pictures of Christmas Eve (Dec. 24), celebrated because Christmas Day, in the primitive Church, was always observed as the Sabbath Day, and, like it, preceded by an Eve, or Vigil. For our present purpose, we prefer a picture painted by a poet of our own time—with a little garniture from other hands, it is true, but, altogether, homely and life-like, picturesque and poetical. It is from the series of Notices of the Months, by Thomas Miller, in the "Illustrated London Almanack" for the present year:—

Dreary would December be, did it not bring with it merry Christmas, with its holly, and ivy, and mistletoe, through the leaves of which peep the scarlet, and purple, and dull white berries, giving a green and summer appearance to our rooms, and throwing a cheerfulness around our hearths. We see the laden coach rolling past our window, piled high with game, hares, and pheasants; and great white geese, and black turkeys, whose plumage the wind blows back as they swing suspended from the roof; conjuring up visions of huge comfortable fires, well-spread tables, and happy faces, all congregated to do honour to good old Christmas, whom Southey has beautifully drawn as seated beside the high-heaped hearth in his great armed-chair, watching the children at their sports, or pausing at times to stir the huge fire, and every now and then sipping the bright brown ale. For nights before the happy season arrives, we hear the village bells, awakening the surrounding silence by their silver music, and throwing a cheerful sound over the wild wintry landscape. When the morning of that old and holy day arrives, we hear the rustic waits chanting some simple Christmas Carol, as they stand in the grey moonlight, at the front of the picturesque parsonage-house, telling how Christ was on that day born, and that, while shepherds were attending their flocks by night, the Angel of the Lord descended, and proclaimed tidings of peace and good-will to all mankind. How plaintive and tremulous do those old chants fall upon the ear, sinking noiselessly and peacefully into the heart, and filling the soul with a holy and reverential awe; and, while the cock from the neighbouring farm makes answer to the Carol of the village waits, we recall that exquisite passage of Shakespeare, in which, alluding to some old superstition, he says:—

Some say that, ever 'gainst that season comes
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,
This bird of dawning singeth all night long.

Or we turn to those by-gone times, so beautifully and feelingly described by Irving, who says:—"Christmas seemed to throw open every door, and unlock every heart. It brought the peasant and the peer together, and blended all ranks in one warm generous flow of joy and kindness. The old halls of castles and manor-houses resounded with the harp and the Christmas Carol, and their ample boards groaned with the weight of hospitality. Even the poorest cottage welcomed the festive season with green decorations of bay and holly; the cheerful fire glanced its rays through the lattice, inviting the passenger to raise the latch and join the gossip knot huddled round the hearth, beguiling the long evening with legendary jokes and off-told Christmas tales.

Wordsworth, too, has given us a delightful "Picture of Christmas Eve," addressed from his mountain retreat to his brother, "on the proud margin of the Thames." The poem opens thus:—

C H R I S T M A S P I C T U R E S .

The minstrels played their Christmas tune
To-night beneath my cottage eaves;
While, smitten by a lofty moon,
The encircling laurels, thick with leaves,
Gave back a rich and dazzling sheen,
That overpowered their natural green!

Through hill and valley every breeze
Had sunk to rest with folded wings;
Keen was the air, but could not freeze,
Nor check the music of the strings;
So stout and hardy were the band
That scraped the chords with strenuous hand.

And who but listened? till was paid
Respect to every inmate's claim;
The greeting given, the music played
In honour of each household name,
Duly pronounced with lusty call,
And "merrie Christmas" wished to all.

Oh brother! I revere the choice
That took thee from thy native hills;

* * * *

Yet, would that thou, with me and mine,
Hadst heard this never-failing rite;
And seen on other faces shine
A true revival of the light,
Which Nature, and these rustic powers,
In simple Childhood spread through ours!

For pleasure hath not ceased to wait
On these expected annual rounds,
Whether the rich man's sumptuous gate
Call forth the unelaborate sounds,
Or they are offered at the door
That guards the lowliest of the poor.

SNAP-DRAGON.

This is a Christmas pastime of no great antiquity. Dr. Johnson gravely defines it as "a kind of play, in which brandy is set on fire, and raisins thrown into it, which those who are unused to the sport are afraid to take out, but which may be safely snatched by a quick motion, and put blazing into the mouth, which being closed, the fire is at once extinguished." Strutt's account of the affair is somewhat more candid than the lexicographer's: he tells us—"This sport is seldom exhibited but in winter, and chiefly at Christmas time: it is simply heating of brandy, or some other ardent spirit, in a dish with raisins; when, the brandy being set on fire, the young folks of both sexes, standing round it, pluck out the raisins, and eat them as hastily as they can, but rarely without burning their hands, or scalding their mouths."

However, it may soon be decided which definition is the most perfect. The sport affords much fun in a darkened room; not the least of which is the spectral appearance of the young players from the spirit flame.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Although much of the custom of profuse hospitality has passed away, Christmas is yet universally recognised as a season when every good Christian shows his gratitude to the Almighty, for the inestimable benefits procured to us by the Nativity of our Blessed Saviour, by an ample display of good will towards our fellow-men. This, however, is the season for the exercise of hospitality—and that threefold: "for one's family; this is of necessity: for strangers; this is of courtesy: for the poor; this is charity." Or, as old Tusser sings:—

At Christmas be merry, and thankful withal,
And feast thy poor neighbours, the great with the small.

We must, now, leave the chants and carols of other days, the minstrelsy and the boisterous mirth of a more picturesque age than our own, and join the Christmas-Day Family-Party which our Artist has assembled in his Illustration. And, here we may remark that custom



SNAP-DRAGON.

immemorial hath stamped the Family Party at Christmas as the most sincere and genuine meeting of the whole year. Many an imagined wrong, and many a heartburning is soothed by the season of hallowed mirth. The sweet sanctity of its associations seems to shut out all meaner joys.

Well, the party have left the substantial luxuries of the dinner table, and are now enjoying the more refined delights that spring from the interchange of affection reared around the same hearth—the same fond home. The room is cosy, nay luxurious, in its appointments, and there is the very atmosphere of hospitality and enjoyment throughout the place. The family pictures are decorated by the holy tree, as if "to commemorate the victory gained over the powers of darkness by the coming of Christ." What a radius of joy and hope does this reflected light shed over the happy party!

View the deepening circle: the grandfather, in his easy Ashburnham chair, his heart brimming o'er with gladness. Opposite are seated the matrons of the party, whose delight in "talking over old times," is one of those touches of nature that the painter loves—his conversation-scenes. To be brief, in this beaming circle we see almost every phase of existence—from the cradle to the grave; old age watching the gambols of early childhood: in short, mid-age, manhood, and youth—every stage of a generation is portrayed in our artist's Christmas Circle. And such scenes will not be rare to-morrow, throughout the length and breadth of the land:

In town or hamlet, shelt'ring middle life,
Down to the cottag'd vale, and straw-roof'd shed

This western isle hath long been fam'd
for scenes
Where bliss domestic finds a dwelling-
place:
Domestic bliss, that, like a harmless dove,
(Honour and sweet endearment keeping
guard),
Can centre in a little quiet nest
All that desire could fly for through the
earth;
That can, the world eluding, be itself
A world enjoyed; that wants no wit-
nesses
But its own sharers, and approving
heaven;
That, like a flow'r deep hid in rocky cleft,
Smiles, though 'tis looking only at the
sky.—KENNEDY.

THE CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Ah! that I were once more a careless
child.—COLERIDGE.

Of all the festivities of the season, this is, in many respects, the most interesting. It has more of the simplicity of the festival than any other scene of its commemoration: there is such innocent gaiety, and brimming mirth in a party of frolicsome children, that we are not surprised at the fondness of painters for children as impersonations of purity and as the attributes of virtue.

Who is there that has not, in after-life, looked back upon childhood, and there seen what innocence he hath outlived. How fondly, too, does he remember this season of presents, anxiously counted on for months before-hand. So, in the Kinderlied, or Child's Song:—

Now Christmas is come, and now Pap-
py's come home,
With a pegtop for Tommie, a hussell for
Sue;
A new bag o' marbles for Dick, and for
Joan
A workbox, for Phæbe a bow for her
shoe,
For Cecily, singing, a humming-top
comes;
For dull drowsie Marie a sleeping-top
meet;

For Ben, Ned, and Harry, a fife and two drums;
For Jamie a box of nice sugar-plums sweet.

Our Artist has shown the little ones in high glee: the room is brilliantly lighted; and, before it has become heated, the freshness and tender beauty of the children may be seen to perfection. As the evening advances, the dance grows fast, and the animal spirits gush out in many a long and loud laugh. A game of forfeits, or some slight sport in which there is a chance for the exercise of small skill, is often the occasion of boisterous mirth; there is a prolonged titter amidst the bevy of children; one less versed in practical joking than his companions, is tricked and laughed at; but, in the pure simplicity of childhood, "he kisses and loves all, and when the smart of the rod is past, smiles on his beater." Alack! "we laugh at his foolish sports, but his game is our earnest; and his drums, rattles, and hobby-horses, but the emblems and mocking of man's business."

Sometimes, a wayward child will not join in the sport; for, childhood has its sour as well as its sweets, even though it be described as a purely happy state. Then, the waggish urchin shirks into a corner, and must be coaxed, and petted, and dandled, and ticed on, with a bait of sugar—to rejoin the merry throng. Really, their lovely appearance almost makes us impugn Coleridge's apostrophe—"How imitatively graceful children are in general before they learn to dance."

We remember, some seventeen years since, a charming paper "On Childhood," in the *New Monthly Magazine*, wherein the delights of a party of children are thus glanced at:—

I love a children's ball—that is, a ball for very young children; for when they



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY.

C H R I S T M A S P I C T U R E S .

approach their teens they begin gradually to throw off their angelic disguise preparatory to becoming men and women; the germs of vanity, dissimulation, and pride are visible; the young eye roves for admiration, the head is held high on contact with vulgarity; the lips speak a different language from the less deceitful brow. If the object of entertainment was really to entertain, we ought only to invite children; because, if not quite sure of succeeding in our aim, we at least can discover whether or not we have attained it. In a party of children, ninety-nine out of a hundred consider themselves at the summit of human elicity, and take no care to conceal their sentiments; and if the unlucky hundredth happens to fall down, or to be affronted, a few tears and a little outcry show you where your assistance is required, and allow you to set matters right again by coaxing and sugar-plums. These occasional eccentric movements in the quadrille, proceeding from the exuberance of spirits and of joy; those shouts of merriment which sometimes defy the lessons of politeness and the frowns of a smiling mamma; those peals of young laughter so thrilling and so infectious; those animated voices and bright faces assure the donors of the feast that they have conferred a few hours of exquisite happiness on the dear little beings around them, afforded them food for chattering and mirth for many days, and perhaps planted in their grateful memories one of those sunny spots to which the man looks back with pleasure and wonder, when sated, wearied, and disappointed, he sees with surprise how easily and how keenly he was once delighted.

Juvenile Balls, as these parties are somewhat affectedly called, are now becoming more frequent than hitherto in the higher circles. The example of the young Royal Family have, doubtless, contributed to this fashion. For such entertainments, the arrangements are as complete as for those of larger growth. The little host or hostess receives the company in due form, and is recognised as the entertainer throughout the evening. The supper is lighter, yet more ornamental, than on other occasions; and of course the whole affair terminates at a much earlier hour.

THE CAROL.

The Carol, as most of our readers probably remember, is derived from the Italian *carola*, a song of joy. It is almost universally sung at Christmas, on the Continent. It is likewise sung in Ireland and in Wales, but in Scotland it is unknown. In various parts of England, within the present century, the singing of Carols began on Christmas Eve, and was continued late into the night. On Christmas Day these Carols took the place of Psalms in the churches, the whole congregation joining; and at the end, the clerk declared, in a loud voice, his wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all the parishioners. Still, these Carols differed materially from those of earlier times, which were festal *chansons* for enlivening Christmas, and not songs of Scripture history; the change having been made by the Puritans.

Of the latter class is the well-known ditty, "God rest ye merry gentlemen," which our Artist has put into the hands and mouth of his "poor but pious minstrel." The charity school boy, who is gazing at the singers, bears in his hand what may have proved a rival to the caroling—his "school-piece." We have a distinct recollection of carols being commonly sung in the streets of London, at Christmas; and of



THE CHRISTMAS CAROL.

the Bellman's Sheet of Verses on the Nativity, embellished with prints of the Saints and the Holy Family: such things are now, comparatively, rare. In the *Literary Gazette* for 1840, we remember mention of a gipsy girl wandering up and down Berkshire, chanting a rude and imperfect recitative to the air of "My Peggy is a wee thing," and commencing

Oh! Joseph was an old man,
And an old man was he,
And he married Mary
From the land of Galilee, &c.

Leaving the minstrelsy of the highway, we may note that, of late, there has been a sort of revival of taste for the Scriptural Carol. Last year, two or three reprinted collections appeared; one of them illuminated in gold and colour, after the manner of an ancient missal.

The custom has been thus glanced at by an old divine:—"Welcome! thrice blessed day! the desire of all nations, whose distant glories made the father of the faithful to rejoice, and whose approaches filled the world with wonder and expectation: thou wert ushered in with angelic hymns, and celebrated ever since with anthems of praise, because thou didst bring forth joy and a Redeemer to mankind."

The Christmas party is broken up; the last good wish of the season—the last kiss—has been exchanged; and the visitors are on the threshold, attended by the entertainers. The house has a manorial character about it; it is not in the heavy, magnificent style of Bracebridge Hall, wherein "were kept up the old games of hoodman blind, shoe the wild mare, hot cockles, bob apple, and snap-dragon; the yule log, and Christmas candles were regularly burnt, and the mistle-toe, with its white berries, hung up, to the imminent peril of all the pretty housemaids."

Our Artist's mansion is, however, a "proper house and home;" it has many chimney-shafts—"wind-pipes of hospitality;" and it has, moreover, that indication of old English comfort—a porch. Here is the leave-taking: the servant has brought the lantern, which seems strangely to have tempted the waggery of a snow-baller. The visitors are well wrapped up—and we wish them a safe ride home.

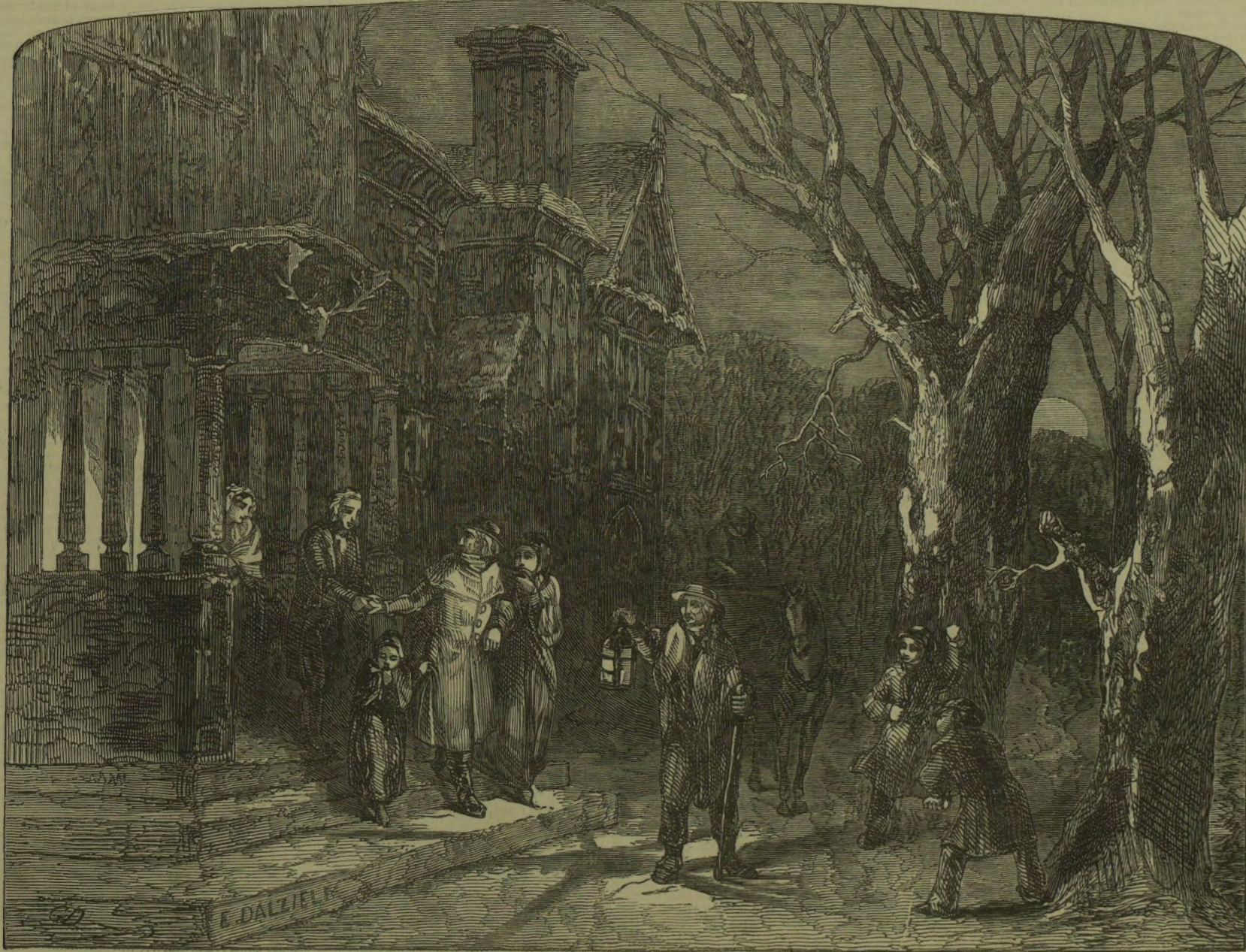
GOING HOME.—"GOOD NIGHT!"

WELL! the party is over; and here is depicted the start for the return home. It appears a bitter night yet, such as our Poet rejoiceth in. "In our eye," says the "Almanack," "Christmas never looks so beautiful as when it has been ushered in by snow, and frost, and rime; when the thatched roofs of the cottages are whitened over, and the branches of the trees are laden with feathery flakes; when the ivy that covers the grey and weather-beaten church porch is half buried beneath the weight of accumulated snow, as if

Nature, in awe to Him,
Had doffed her gaudy trim,
With her great Master so to sympathise,
Hiding her guilty front with innocent snow."

And now, good readers, our descriptive task is over. If there should be any of you disposed to question the fitness or extent of the Illustrations of the Season, we would reply in the words of Washington Irving, penned, perhaps, a quarter of a century since, but still more applicable in the present day than when written:—

But, enough of Christmas and its gambols; it is time for me to pause in this garrulity. Methinks, I hear the questions asked by my graver readers, "To what purpose is all this—how is the world to be made wiser by this talk?" Alas! is there not wisdom enough extant for the instruction of the world? And, if not, are there not thousands of abler pens labouring for its improvement? It is much pleasanter to please than to instruct—to play the companion rather than the preceptor. What, after all, is the mite of wisdom that I could throw into the mass of knowledge; or how am I sure that my sagacious deductions may be safe guides for the opinions of others? But, in writing to amuse, if I fail, the only evil is my own disappointment. If, however, I can, by any lucky chance, in these days of evil, rub out one wrinkle from the brow of care, or beguile the heavy heart of one moment of sorrow; if I can, now and then, penetrate through the gathering film of misanthropy, prompt a benevolent view of human nature, and make my reader more in good humour with his fellow-beings and himself, surely, surely, I shall not then have written entirely in vain.



THE RETURN HOME.—"GOOD NIGHT."

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

NEW YEAR 1848.

The confirmed success of this Journal, and the increasing means placed at the disposal of its Proprietors, from the large circulation established over the whole civilised world, have determined them to spare no expense in still further increasing the attractions of this popular Newspaper.

With this determination, during the year 1848 the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS will present, besides the usual number of Engravings,

TWO LARGE AND SEPARATE ENGRAVINGS OF
PARIS AND EDINBURGH.

To be presented GRATIS to all Subscribers during the year.

THE VIEW OF PARIS

has for a long time been in preparation by the celebrated engravers of Paris, Messrs. Best and Co. The view is taken from the towers of Notre Dame, and contains nearly every public and picturesque building in this highly interesting city. This Engraving, it is expected, will be ready for delivery to the Subscribers to the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS early in the first or second week in January, 1848.

THE VIEW OF EDINBURGH

is already finished, and presents a Panoramic View of this romantic city.

New Subscribers to this Newspaper will thus have a favourable opportunity in commencing the year 1848 with the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS; as the Number published January 1st, 1848, will commence a new Volume, which will have the extra Pictures of Paris and Edinburgh Gratis.

The ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS is Published every Saturday at the Office, 198, Strand, London. Every copy is printed on stamped paper to go free to any part of the United Kingdom and the Colonies.

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CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, December 26.—First Sunday after Christmas.—St. Stephen.
MONDAY, 27.—St. John the Evangelist.
TUESDAY, 28.—Innocent's Day.—The Sun rises at 8h. 8m., and sets at 3h. 55m.
WEDNESDAY, 29.—The Moon enters her last quarter at 1h. 48m. p.m.
THURSDAY, 30.—The length of the day is 7h. 48m., and the day has increased 3 minutes in length since the Shortest Day.
FRIDAY, 31.—St. Silvester.—Mars sets at 2h. 56m. a.m.; Jupiter rises at 4h. 23m. p.m.
SATURDAY, January 1, 1848.—Circumcision.—Venus rises at 4h. 10m. a.m., and Mercury rises at 7h. 0h. a.m.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 1.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
4 50	5 10	5 30	5 50	6 10	6 30	6 50

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A. D." will be liable, if the promise was made in the presence of a witness, or witnesses.
"A. R. W."—We cannot forward your letter to "C. J.," as we are not in possession of his address.
"R. M. B."—Chesterfield.—The edition of Burns in question may be ascertained of the Bookseller of your town: it is, we think, published in Scotland.
"Sigma," Walworth.—The Museum of Economic Geology, Craig's-court, Charing Cross, (not Somerset House), is open to the public gratuitously. Mr. Sopwith has published an excellent Account of the Collection. Geological Specimens may be purchased at Mr. Tennant's, 149, Strand.
"A Constant Subscriber," Putney.—The price of a Set of Tools for Wood Engraving may be ascertained of Messrs. Fenn, Neugate-street.
"Sindesollina."—We cannot.
"M. M."—The Prince of Wales was born at Windsor Castle, in 1841.
"Game" is quizzing.
"L. N. L." City, is but one of several Subscribers who have borne testimony to the accuracy of "Mr. Duncan's excellent Series of the British Fisheries." The hint shall not be lost.
"J. E."—Wilmington, should address his inquiry to Mr. Ackermann, Strand.
"R. H. W."—The binder is in fault; he must have overbeaten the Numbers.
"C. D."—Cheam.—The Engraving in question has been corrected in the reprint of the Almanack.
"Study."—Declined.
"C. K. H."—is recommended to subscribe. The distribution will be duly announced.
"R. S. V. P."—is recommended to address his inquiry to Mr. Cleaver, publisher, Baker-street, Portman-square.
"C. W." should order of his newsdealer our latest edition.
"A Correspondent" will find in "Real Life in India," (just published), the requisite information for obtaining appointments in the Indian Public Service.
"Solid."—We have not room.
"Irish Pegasus."—The person letting the horse must be duly licensed.
"A." must be the loser.
"Amicus," Berwick.—Your communication has been mislaid.
"W. H. B."—We are too much pressed, at present.
"Theopis."—We are not aware that any collection of the Dramas of our time is superior to Ingham's: others are later, as those by Dibdin, Cumberland, and Webster.
"Philobos."—The Lines have merit, but are too lengthy.
"A Subscriber," Glasgow.—Probably, Lord Campbell, in his "Lives of the Chancellors," has explained the matter.
"F."—Old Aberdeen, is thanked for his obliging offer; but the subjects he proffers are not of immediate interest.
"Ignoramus," Dublin.—The primitive colours are red, yellow, and blue.
"C. J. W. R." Ipswich.—We have not the means at hand of ascertaining the data in question.
"Militant."—Yes.
"G. L. B." is thanked for the lines, but we have not room to print them.
"Jed."—We have not heard of the work in question.
"Hortensia" must excuse us. Arithmetical calculations are not, generally, suitable for a newspaper.
"T. S. B." Middleton, will find information of the kind he desires in "The Boy's Book of Sports."
"A Subscriber," Barnstaple, is thanked. The Illustrations are in the Engraver's hands.
"J. E. B."—"The Doctor" is by the late Dr. Southey.
"J. E. C. E."—The Books on the Hamiltonian System are published by Law, bookseller, Fleet-street.
"L. S. C." will find a list of the Directors of the South Eastern Railway in the Railway Directory for 1848. The list is too long for quotation here.
"Lewin" should apply to a copyist.
"C. J. C."—Manchester.—"Taylor's Shortland, improved by Harding."
"B. D."—Arundel.—Mr. J. Tild Prati's work on Savings Banks.
"C. S." should apply to the Finsbury Savings Bank.
"J. A. Y."—Apply to Messrs. Smith, printers, Lisle-street, Soho.
"A Lover of Science," Sidmouth.—Apply at the Office for the Sale of Parliamentary Papers, Great Turnstile, Holborn.
"E. D."—Exeter, is thanked; but we have not room for such matters.
"A Constant Reader" will find the best definitions in the "Political Dictionary," published by C. Knight. They are too lengthy for quotation here.
"Apothegms," Chard.—The term "El Dorado," "the gilded," or "golden," is commonly applied to the country teeming with precious metals, sought for in vain by Spanish adventurers, under Sir Walter Raleigh. It was stated to lie between the Orinoco and the Amazon, or Guiana; or the whole of Guiana was sometimes designated El Dorado. (See further details in "Popular Errors Explained and Illustrated," pp. 290-291.)
"R. W."—The error is immaterial.
"Arrochar."—The decision of the Legislature would hardly be changed by the document alluded to.
"A Subscriber ab initio."—The age of Lady Lucy, whose tomb was engraved in No. 281, is L.X. and three. I.X. is a misprint.
"A Subscriber," Cheltenham.—The field of Culloden lies about three miles north-east of Inverness.
"A Sheffield Subscriber."—Apply to Ackermann, Strand.
"C. F. S."—The duty on old foreign books imported into this country is one penny per lb.
"Cautious."—By the Police Magistrates; and mostly, by the Clergy in their visitations.
"A Constant Reader" may see the Indian Lock, (engraved last week), at Messrs. Chubb's, St. Paul's Churchyard.
"C. P. C."—Dr. Hampden is "low church."
"J. W."—Grantham.—There are two distinct species of beet, each containing several varieties: both white and red are the parents of the field-beet.
"W. H."—Mr. Thomas Pringle, the traveller, died some years since. Sir Thomas Neve's address is 6, Albemarle-street; and Dagenham Park, Essex.
"L. L. L."—Hewitt's engravings are well-executed, but not scarce; you possess his principal work.

* In our notice of the Steaming Apparatus, in page 392, we omitted to state that the Compound Lub is the invention of Mr. W. P. Stanley, of Peterborough.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Etchings, by J. E. Gordon.—Julien's Album, for 1848.—British Diplomacy in the River Plate.—Village Tales from Alsatia.—Family Joe Miller.—Byron's Tales and Poems.—Webster's Royal Red Book.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

* In consequence of CHRISTMAS DAY falling on Saturday, we, this week, publish our Journal on Friday, the 24th.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1847.

The week has, of course, been barren of political interest, with the exception of the brief declaration by Lord John Russell of what the future course of the Government will be with respect to the distress in Ireland. The Executive has a reserve of provisions in hand, left from the last distribution; the public works, left unfinished, are to be completed under the Act of the present session, and, above all, the power of the New Poor-Law is to be tested to the utmost. The Government declares sternly it will not excuse the landed and resident proprietors from an iota of their liabilities. It reckons on their co-operation, which must be given by the employment of labour and other means. They are now legally responsible for the consequences of neglect, and now, for the first time, it may be said that Ireland is brought within the pale of the old law of England, which gives every man a lien on the property of the nation. However much the law may be abused in the early period of its working, whether by the prejudice of the people or the dislike of the proprietors, there it is, an existing thing, of quite a different cast to the Land Laws which have, from time to time, been passed within the last century. It will, in the course of time, make it the interest of the possessors of property that it should sustain something else than a horde of pauper tenants. The whole system of parochial duty, which has such a vast effect on English society, has yet to be learned in Ireland, where nothing like it has existed. As yet, there is a reluctance, perhaps a disagreeable difficulty, in discharging such duties. From the account given of the proceedings of the Government officers during the darkest period of the last famine by a writer in the *Edinburgh Review*, it appears that the burden of all the functions of relief, employment, and superintendence of a mass of population doubling the number of the largest army that was ever banded, fell on the few paid officials of the Government. It is a new era in social Government that is now opening in Ireland, and we must be prepared for some ignorance, many errors, and great complaints. But the element of a better state of things is there, and will work its way through infinite confusions. Till the Poor Law is proved an economic impossibility—till it utterly fails, not from defective administration but from inherent defects—no more money will be voted by Parliament from the Consolidated Fund.

THE WEATHER.

The weather at the first part of the week was remarkable for the high and uniform temperature of the air, and, at the latter part of it, for its low temperature. The sky has been nearly always clouded. During Friday and Saturday, the wind, at times, almost amounted to a gale; its direction was S. On Monday, a change of wind took place; a considerable change of temperature has taken place; and, at the end of the week, the weather was more seasonable than it has been for some time.

The following are some particulars for each day:—Thursday, the sky was overcast till noon, and partially free from cloud till 9h. p.m., and again overcast before midnight. The direction of the wind was S. in the morning, and S.W. after noon. The average temperature of the day was 48°, being about 8° above the average for the season. Friday, the sky was mostly overcast throughout the day, with a thin rain falling at different times; the direction of the wind was principally S. and blowing strongly; the average temperature for the day was 51°, being more than 11° above the average for the season. Saturday the sky was overcast all day, and a slight rain was falling during the greater part of it; the barometer reading was again low on this day, being 29 in. 2 at 7h. p.m., after which time it began to increase. Sunday, the sky was mostly covered by cloud throughout the day, the place of the moon being visible during the evening; the direction of the wind was S.W.; the average temperature for the day was 39°. Monday the sky was overcast all day; the direction of the wind was N., and the average temperature for the day was 37°. Tuesday the sky was covered by cloud all day; the direction of the wind was N.E.; and the average temperature for the day was 32°, being 18° less than it was on the preceding Friday. Wednesday, the sky was overcast all day; the wind was E.; and the average temperature of the day was 33°; and that for the week ending this day, was 41°.

The extreme thermometrical readings for each day were:—

Thursday, Dec. 16	the highest during the day was 54 deg., and the lowest was 42 deg.
Friday, Dec. 17	51
Saturday, Dec. 18	54
Sunday, Dec. 19	51
Monday, Dec. 20	49
Tuesday, Dec. 21	40
Wednesday, Dec. 22	35

On Thursday, at 1h. p.m., the reading of the thermometer was 51° nearly, and from this time till Saturday morning at 7h., the readings were always between 48° and 54°, being remarkable both for their high values and their uniformity; after 7h. a.m. on Saturday, the readings declined, and continued doing so all day; at midnight, the reading was 40°, and early on the morning of Sunday, it was as low as 30°, being 24° nearly less than it was at the same time on the preceding day. During Sunday, the reading increased to 49° at 1h. p.m., and declined afterwards to 40° at midnight, and continued at this reading throughout the night, and till 8h. a.m. on the morning of Monday, after which time it decreased throughout the day, till, at midnight, it was 35°, and it decreased afterwards to 32° by 8h. a.m. on the morning of Tuesday; and, on Tuesday, it only increased to 34° during the day, and decreased to 30° at night. From these remarks, it will be seen that the usual diurnal rise and fall in the readings of the thermometer have not taken place.

Blackheath, Wednesday, December 22, 1847.

J. G.

COURT AND HAUT TON.

THE COURT AT OSBORNE.

The Queen and Prince Albert took a drive in an open carriage, on Friday afternoon.

On Saturday the unfavourable state of the weather prevented her Majesty and Prince Albert, and the Royal children, from taking their usual walks and rides. The Hon. and Rev. C. Leslie Courtenay and Sir James Clark arrived on a visit to her Majesty, and had the honour of joining the Royal dinner circle in the evening.

On Sunday her Majesty and Prince Albert, and the ladies and gentlemen of the Royal suite, attended divine service. The Hon. and Rev. C. Leslie Courtenay officiated.

Most of the Cabinet Ministers left town on Tuesday to spend the Christmas recess—Lord and Lady John Russell and family and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to visit the Duke of Bedford, at Woburn, where their Graces will receive a succession of distinguished visitors for some weeks—Lord Lansdowne to Bowood—Earl Grey and family to Howick Hall, on Wednesday, for a few days—Lord and Lady Palmerston to visit Broadlands, on Tuesday, where they will entertain a succession of visitors. The Hon. Col. Keppel, M.P., has left town for the seat of his father, the Earl of Albemarle, in Suffolk.

Lord Brougham left Grafton-street on Wednesday for Paris, en route to his Lordship's chateau near Cannes, where the noble and learned Lord is expected to remain until the re-assembling of Parliament after the recess.

RETURN OF THE COURT TO WINDSOR.

On Tuesday, the Queen and Prince Albert, with the Royal Family, arrived from Osborne at the Castle at twenty-five minutes before three o'clock in the afternoon. Her Majesty and the Prince were attended by the Viscountess Canning (Lady in Waiting), the Hon. Miss Kerr (Maid of Honour in Waiting), Colonel the Hon. Charles Grey (Equerry in Waiting), Colonel Bouvierie (Equerry in Waiting to his Royal Highness), and Major-General Bowles (Master of the Household). The august party was escorted by a party of the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards. The Queen and Prince Albert were received at the grand entrance to the Castle by Lord Waterpark (Lord in Waiting) and Capt. the Hon. A. N. Hood.

POPULATION AND POOR RATES.—A return, printed by order of the House of Commons, on the motion of Sir R. Ferguson, shows, that the annual value of the property rated to the poor rates, amounts in England to £62,540,030; in Scotland, to £9,320,784; in Ireland, to £13,204,234. The expenditure for the relief and maintenance of the poor (1845-46) amounted, in England, to £4,954,204; in Scotland, to £295,232; and in Ireland, to £425,184. The rate in the pound, and expenditure for the relief of the poor on the annual value of the property rated to the poor rates, amounts, in England, to 1s. 7d.; in Scotland, to 7d.; and in Ireland, to 8d. The total number of paupers relieved, including casual poor, amounted, in England, to 1,330,567; in Scotland, to 96,326; and in Ireland, to 257,235. The proportion per cent. of the number of paupers relieved to the population was in England, 8.4; in Scotland, 3.7; and in Ireland, 3.1. The rate per head of the expenditure on the total number of paupers relieved amounted, in England, to £3 14s. 5d.; in Scotland, to £3 0s. 9d.; and in Ireland, to £1 13s. 0d.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

The unseemly jars which have of late drawn such general and painful attention on the part of the public to the internal organisation of the Government of the Church, continue.

THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. HAMPDEN TO THE SEE OF HEREFORD still presents itself as the *questio vexata* that it was last week. The Dean of Hereford has presented to the Queen, through her Majesty's Prime Minister, on the subject of the nomination of this Divine to the See of Hereford, a memorial, in which he refers to the vote of censure passed on Dr. Hampden by the University of Oxford, and pleads for that right and liberty of conscience which will be "trampled to the very dust" by a compulsion to elect a person still under that censure. On this ground he prays either that her Majesty will recommend some other person, or that she will graciously relieve the Chapter from the necessity of proceeding to the election, till she has been pleased to submit Dr. Hampden's publications "to the judgment, either of the two Houses of Convocation of Clergy of the province of Canterbury, which is now sitting, or of the Provincial Council of Bishops of the same province, assisted by such Divines as her Majesty, or the said Provincial Council, shall be pleased to call, or of some other competent tribunal which her Majesty shall be graciously pleased to appoint."

Dr. Hampden himself has also published a letter, addressed to Lord John Russell, which contains a lengthened defence of his religious opinions, and in which he denies that he is *de facto* or *de jure* under "the censure of the University."

His Grace the Duke of Sutherland has addressed to the Rev. Dr. Bowles, Vicar of Stanton Lacy, a letter, dated Trentham, Dec. 18th, relative to the appointment of Dr. Hampden to the see of Hereford. His Grace, after expressing his great satisfaction with the appointment, says:—"I happen to have means of knowing that when Lord Grenville appointed Dr. Hampden to St. Mary Hall, he was not acquainted personally with him, but collected to the best of his power the opinion of the University at that time, when Dr. Hampden's Lectures had already been for some months before the public. The preponderance of opinion was great in his favour. Some of those who have since been most bitterly violent then recommended him. I believe that no disapprobation was expressed until the publication of his pamphlet in favour of the admission of Dissenters to the University. I have written this from feeling sure that it will be interesting to you to know the opinion of such an authority as Lord Grenville, and you may make any use of the information I am thus able to give that may seem desirable.—Very truly yours, SUTHERLAND.—The Rev. J. Bowles, D.D., Stanton Lacy, Ludlow."

A body of the clergy, resident within the Archdeaconry of Coventry, have protested against the petition about to be presented to her Majesty from certain of their brother clergymen of that Archdeaconry against the appointment of Dr. Hampden.

WHAT IS THE OFFENCE OF PRÆMUNIRE?—It is contempt of the Queen and her Government, and it is so called, says Blackstone, from the words of the writ preparatory to the prosecution thereof. It is enacted by the 25th Henry VIII., c. 20, that if the Dean and Chapter refuse to elect the person named by the Sovereign, or any Archbishop or Bishop to confirm or consecrate him, they shall fall within the penalties of the statutes of *præmunire*. The punishment of this offence is thus stated by Coke:—"That, from the conviction, the defendant shall be out of the King's protection, and his lands and tenements, goods and chattels, forfeited to the King; and, that his body shall remain in prison at the King's pleasure; or (as other authorities have it) during life." So odious, says Coke, was this offence, that a man that was attainted of it might have been slain by any other man without danger of law; because, it was provided by law that any man might do to him as to the King's enemy, and any man may lawfully kill an enemy. If any Archbishop or Bishop be contemplating the commission of this offence, it will be as well that he should understand that it is no longer lawful for individuals or the mob to inflict summary punishment. The statute, 5th Elizabeth, c. 1, provides that it shall not be lawful to kill any person attainted in a *præmunire*, any law, statute, opinion, or exposition of law to the contrary notwithstanding. But still, such delinquent, says Blackstone, though protected as a part of the public from public wrongs, can bring no action for any private injury, how atrocious soever, being so far out of the protection of the law that it will not guard his civil rights, nor remedy any grievance which he as an individual may suffer. And no man knowing him to be guilty can with safety give him comfort.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

MORTALITY IN THE METROPOLIS.

The Report issued by the Registrar-General this week, presents the health of the metropolis under a far more cheering aspect than it has exhibited for some weeks past. Last week the total number of deaths from all causes amounted to 2416, out of a population numbering 1,948,425; the number of deaths this week, according to the same official authority, is 1496 out of the same population, showing a decrease in the mortality, this week, of 470.

The relative mortality of different districts will be seen by the following portion of the Registrar's Report:—

	Population Enumerated 1841.	Average weekly Deaths, 1842-6. Five Autumns.	Deaths in the Week.
West Districts	301,326	146	273
North Districts	376,396	184	415
Central Districts	374,759	196	314
East Districts	393,247	232	371
South Districts	502,483	288	573
Totals	1,948,211	1046	1946
Males	980	524	966
Females		522	

BIRTHS IN THE METROPOLIS.—The number of births in the metropolis amount to—Males, 690; females, 629; total, 1319.

EAST INDIA HOUSE.—A General Quarterly Court of the Proprietors of East India Stock was held on Wednesday, at the Company's house in Leadenhall-street. The Chairman gave notice that the half-yearly dividends on East India Stock would (agreeable to Act of Parliament) be paid on the 6th of January next and following days.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—The examination of candidates for the two King's scholarships, vacant every Christmas, took place at the institution, on Friday, the 17th inst. The following Professors composed the Board of Examiners:—Mr. C. Potter (chairman), Sir G. Smart (Sir G. Smart was prevented attending by indisposition), Mr. Goss, Mr. C. Lucas, Mr. W. S. Bennett, Mr. J. Elliott, Mr. J. Bennett. The successful candidates were Miss Dorothy Watkins and Master W. G. Cusins. The following candidates highly distinguished themselves at the examination:—Misses M. E. Smith, B. M. Street, C. Fraser; Messrs. Layland, Nicholson, Von Holst.

KING'S COLLEGE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, NORWICH.—The annual recitation by the pupils of this academy took place in the school-room at Mile-end, on Wednesday, when the Right Hon. Lord Sondes presided at the distribution of prizes.

ROYAL NAVAL SCHOOL, NEW CROSS.—The half-yearly distribution of prizes took place in the chapel of the institution on Tuesday, at half-past twelve o'clock, Rear Admiral Bowles, C.B., M.P., president, in the chair.

MERCHANT SEAMEN'S SOCIETY.—On Tuesday afternoon, a Quarterly Court of the Governors of the Corporation for the Relief of Seamen in the Merchant Service, was held at the office, 25, Birch-in-lane, Cornhill; C. Davison Kerr, Esq., in the chair. The minutes of the last Court, and the cash accounts for the quarter ending 30th September, 1847, were read and approved; and the meeting proceeded in committee to consider the cases of upwards of 70 applicants. The Secretary, W. Watson, Esq., stated that, during the past year, there had been 1440 applicants before the committee, to whom temporary relief or permanent pensions had been granted.

ELECTION OF MR. SALOMONS AS ALDERMAN.—On Tuesday evening Mr. Salomons invited a large number of his friends to dinner at the London Tavern, in commemoration of his accession to the position of Alderman of the Cordwainers' Ward. The worthy host was supported by many influential citizens, and in the course of the evening Baron Rothschild joined the party.

A DEPUTATION OF IRISH M.P.'S waited on Sir G. Grey on Friday (last week), at the Home-Office, with the view of impressing upon the Government the absolute necessity of taking steps to guard against the recurrence of famine in those localities where the Poor-Law relief would not suffice. Sir G. Grey, in reply, assured the deputation that, acquiescing in the principle set forth by them, he was enabled to state that the Government had, as they believed, at their disposal, means sufficient for the present to meet any case of destitution likely to occur, at an early period, and which would not be provided for by local resources, provided those means were used only in cases in which the local resources of the union had been exercised to the fullest extent available, and had been found insufficient. The deputation considered the right hon. gentleman's explanation most satisfactory; and the determination of the Government calculated to prevent anything even approaching last year's distress.

THE ROYAL BOUNTY.—On Monday morning the Bishop of Oxford, Lord High Almoner, assisted by the Sub-Almoner, according to ancient usage, attended at the Almonry Office, Whitehall, and distributed the Royal bounty to a very great number of aged and infirm persons, each recipient being presented with two half-crowns of this year's coinage, and a form of application for the bounty issued on Maunday Thursday. The recipients this year were so numerous that Tuesday also was occupied to complete the distribution.

MYSTERIOUS ROBBERY.—On Saturday last information was circulated throughout the various divisions of the metropolitan police, relative to another very mysterious robbery, which took place the previous evening at the Paddington Railway station. Mr. Fryer, a part of whose duty it is to pay the men belonging to the locomotive department, left his office, adjacent to the entrance gates, at six o'clock, to go to tea, and, on quitting, locked, as usual, the outer door. On his return, after an absence of not more than twelve minutes, he discovered that the office had been entered, no doubt by means of a skeleton key, and that upwards of £82 in gold and silver had been stolen from a drawer, the lock of which had been forced. Information of the robbery was promptly communicated to Mr. Colliard, the superintendent of the Company's police, who is using his utmost endeavours to trace out the guilty party.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY AT LIVERPOOL.—On Monday evening, a daring highway robbery was committed in the suburbs of Liverpool. Mr. John Houghton, of Mill-lane, West Derby, was proceeding, in a private cab, accompanied by his three sisters and another lady, for the purpose of attending at a collegiate institution, when they were stopped by six men, armed with a pistol, sword, &c. They had, however, only succeeded in obtaining a small sum of money from Mr. Houghton when the approach of an omnibus disturbed them, and they escaped. The robbers were supposed to be some of the dismissed "navvies."

POSTSCRIPT.

SHIPWRECKS ON THE IRISH COAST, AND LOSS OF LIFE.

During the storm on Friday night (last week) the schooner *Ida*, of Newry, John Bannan master, bound from Runcorn to Newry, with a cargo of rock salt, was driven into Dundrum Bay. The violence of the gale drove the hapless vessel on a sandbank opposite to Tyrella, where she capsized, and the master and a crew of five persons were drowned. The schooner has since gone to pieces, and two of the bodies have been washed ashore.

The barque *Benin*, of Liverpool, 360 tons burden, on her way from Benin, west coast of Africa, to Liverpool, was driven into Ballinskelligs Bay, county Kerry, at three o'clock A.M., on the 17th inst. She was laden with palm oil and ivory, and consigned to her owners, Harrison and Co., Liverpool. Sixteen of the crew, including the captain and one passenger, have been saved. The exertions of the countrypeople in saving the crew were most praiseworthy: they carried them on their backs for more than three miles to Waterville. It is expected that a great portion of the valuable cargo will be saved.

About four o'clock on the same morning, a ship laden with deals and oak staves was driven ashore at Gun Point, about two miles west of Skull Harbour, and three from where the *Stephen Whitney* was lost, and in a few moments became a total wreck. None of the crew have been seen. Some suppose they abandoned her; others that they were drowned. Another vessel in distress also cast anchor on that morning outside Skull Harbour; but, in consequence of the violent storm then raging, no assistance could be rendered her; her fate is unknown.

On the same morning the ship *Henrietta Mary*, of New Ross, ex-Quebec, drifted ashore near Cove; 13 of her crew had been picked up by the brig *Caroline*, arrived there from Bristol, on the 13th inst.; the master, officers, 17 of the crew, and a lady passenger lost.

The ship *Maple Leaf*, of and from Quebec, bound to Bristol, fortunately got into Cove on the preceding night, with loss of sails, bulwarks, &c.

The packet-ship *Oxford*, which sailed from Liverpool for New York, has been compelled to put back to Cork for repairs, after being at sea twenty-three days. On the 6th, she encountered a dreadful hurricane and shipped a tremendous sea, which swept her deck fore and aft, and forcing itself down the hatchways, flooded the vessel between decks and drowned eight of her steerage passengers in their berths.

The *Phoenix* steam-ship has just arrived at Bristol, bringing a portion of the crew of the *Lord Canterbury*, a timber ship from Quebec to Bristol. She had become water-logged and unmanageable on the 5th instant, and on the 16th a vessel was hailed, and succeeded in rescuing the mate and twelve of the crew, but was unable, from the increasing violence of the gale, to get off the captain, and the rest of the crew, who originally numbered twenty men and boys.

FIRES IN THE METROPOLIS.—On Wednesday night, about ten o'clock, a fire, attended with a serious destruction of property, broke out upon the extensive premises belonging to Messrs. Alfred Bennett and Henry Morton Burton, engineers and millwrights, in Holland-street, Blackfriars-road. The flames were fully subdued by half-past 11 o'clock, but not before the pattern-works and the turnery were completely gutted. The origin of the disaster is unknown.—On Wednesday morning, at four o'clock, a fire burst forth from the Coachmakers' Arms Tavern, Rose-street, Long-acre, the property of Mr. John Dunston; owing to the great quantity of spirits in the place, the whole was soon one sheet of fire, which, mounting the stairs, fired every room in the building almost simultaneously. Fortunately there was a good supply of water, which was scattered into the midst of the fire, and, after the lapse of two hours, the flames were extinguished. The total damage is very considerable, but Mr. Dunston was insured.

IRELAND.

The illness of the Lord Chancellor continues to present a very dangerous aspect. But little hopes are entertained of the right honourable gentleman's recovery.

KILKENNY ELECTION.—On Saturday Michael Sullivan, Esq., was unanimously elected as representative for the City of Kilkenny, in the room of John O'Connell, Esq.

The Lord Lieutenant has approved of Lord Courtown being appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the county of Wexford.

LAW APPOINTMENTS.—The Chairmanship of Louth, vacated by the well-merited appointment of Mr. Henry Baldwin to the responsible post of law adviser to the Castle, has been conferred on Mr. P. Plake, of the Connaught Circuit. The learned gentleman is a Whig and a Roman Catholic, and his professional attainments are but little inferior to those of his lamented brother, the late James Henry Blake, the eminent Queen's Counsel.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—This body met on Monday, as usual. There was rather a crowded attendance. Amongst those present were Mr. Maurice O'Connell, M.P., Mr. John O'Connell, M.P., Alderman O'Brien, &c. &c. The rent was announced to be £19.

THE CLEARANCE SYSTEM.—From the reported proceedings had at the last meeting of the Galway Board of Poor Law Guardians, it appears that a system of depopulating large tracts of land, and throwing the pauperised inhabitants for support upon the electoral divisions, prevails to an enormous extent in that county. To remedy this act of injustice, by which certain proprietors are enabled to shift the charge of those paupers from their own shoulders to those of the overtaxed ratepayers, a resolution was carried, stating the opinion of the Guardians, that the only way of preventing the evil is to resort to a townland rating, for the support of paupers chargeable to same, and by so doing protect the resident proprietors and occupiers who do their duty to their tenants, by making it the interest of every proprietor to employ the labouring population on their property; and they call on the Commissioners for the Relief of the Poor in Ireland to impress on the Government the equity and necessity of having the present law, as regards the rating, changed from electoral divisions to a townland rating, and thereby protect the interest of the resident ratepayers, as well as the poor, or otherwise all will be reduced to the same level of poverty and pauperism.

THE MURDER OF THE REV. MR. LLOYD.—A correspondent of the *Evening Mail*, writing under date Roscommon, December 18, says:—"On Friday evening (last week) about five o'clock, a party of the constabulary, with Sub-Inspector Young, and an officer and party of the 68th Regiment, all under the command of Mr. Edmond Blake, resident magistrate, arrived at Roscommon, from Elphin, with twelve persons in custody, who have been fully committed, and lodged in the county gaol, two of whom are charged as being the perpetrators of the murder of the late Rev. John Lloyd, of Smith-hill, near Elphin, and ten as being parties to the conspiracy to murder that lamented gentleman."

The Colonelcy of the 4th Light Dragoons, vacant by the demise of Sir Charles Dalbiac, has been filled up by the appointment of Major-General Sir George Scovell, from the 7th Dragoon Guards. The latter regiment has been given to Major-General Murray.

CHLOROFORM.—Dr. Reymonet, chief surgeon of the Hôtel Dieu, at Marseilles succeeded, last week, in amputating the arm from the socket of a woman, aged fifty, when under the influence of chloroform. The woman, being agitated, was not at first affected by the inhalation, but, on a second application, became insensible in about two minutes, and remained so until the painful operation was completed. She was throughout in a calm sleep, and, on awakening, declared that she had felt no pain.

REFUSAL TO BE A MAGISTRATE.—On the recommendation of C. H. Leigh, Esq., Lord-Lieutenant of Monmouth, the Lord-Chancellor was pleased to add the name of C. Conway, Esq., of Pontewydd, to the commission of the peace for that county. The honour, however, has been declined by that gentleman, on religious grounds, because, as a dissenter, he believes that a legalised establishment for the support of religion is a great moral and social wrong; and that, if he accepted the magistracy office, he should be compelled to put in force laws for the support of that of which he entertained this opinion.

The Rev. John H. Newman was to leave Rome on the 9th instant, for England. Mr. Newman is the bearer of documents of great importance relative to the re-arrangement of the Roman Catholic dioceses, and the establishment of new bishoprics. He is expected in England in a few days.

CHRISTMAS BOXES.—The grocers of Leabury and Haye have, like those of Hereford and Leominster, resolved to discontinue the custom of giving Christmas-boxes, and to present the amount to the public charities.

A ROYAL ORDINANCE, dated the 19th, opens a supplementary credit of 500,000*l.* to the French Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, to enable him to continue to pay premiums as encouragements to the whale and cod fisheries, the sum of 4,000,000*l.* allowed in the last budget having been found insufficient.

MORE RAILWAY ROBBERIES.—Another robbery of cash at the Great Western Station makes the third mysterious loss of cash which that Company has sustained, besides two other robberies of cash at the Folkestone Station of the South-Eastern Railway, and the Bristol Station of the Bristol and Gloucester Company. No clue has yet been obtained to this new gang of depredators.

A FIRE-DAMP explosion occurred on Saturday last at one of the pits of the Bowling Company, at East Bierley, Yorkshire, whereby eleven men and three boys were all more or less severely scorched. One of the sufferers, a youth named Barrett, has since died. An inquest was held on Tuesday at the Hand and Shuttle Inn, Bowling, before Mr. C. Jewison, and a verdict of "Accidental Death" returned. The accident arose from one of the men suffering a hole to remain in the gauze of his "Davy's lamp."

HORRIBLE MURDER.—Mr. Copeman, jun., son of Mr. Copeman, farmer, of Blyborough, was found on Sunday morning last, about nine o'clock, on the road leading from Kirtton to Blyborough, quite dead. His throat was cut, and the body was otherwise dreadfully mangled; a piece of flesh was knocked out of his face, and was lying on the ground near the body. The young man had a dog with him, which had also been very much cut and bruised, but it was not quite killed. Mr. Copeman left the Red Lion Inn, Kirtton, about twelve o'clock on Saturday night, to go home to Blyborough, and it appears that he had not gone far before he met with his assassins.

DREADFUL WRECKS AND LOSS OF LIFE.—Intelligence has been communicated at Lloyd's, of the deplorable loss of a fine ship, called the *Henrietta Mary* (trading between Liverpool and Quebec), within 100 miles of the English coast, and the perishing of fourteen lives, including the captain, chief officers, and a lady passenger. The unfortunate vessel was reported to be in:—Accounts were also on Monday received of a fearful collision near the entrance of the English Channel, on the night of the 14th inst., between the *Warrior*, Beynon, master, from London to Gibraltar, and the *Emma*, Bertha, commander, reported to be from the Black Sea. Of the two, the *Emma* suffered the most, and she quickly went down, with five of her crew, who of course perished. The remainder succeeded in reaching the *Warrior*, which, in a crippled state, ran into Falmouth to make good her injury. The authorities are now investigating the matter.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH, GUILDHALL.

SALE OF CADETSHIPS.—THE QUEEN V. CAPTAIN CHARRITTE, SIR W. YOUNG, ANNA STEWART, AND — RALLET.—This was an indictment against the defendants, in which they were charged, under the Act 49th Geo. III., c. 126, sec. 3, with the offence of having fraudulently obtained and disposed of a cadetship in the East India Company's Service for a pecuniary reward or consideration. The case excited a great deal of interest from the respectable position of the parties implicated.—Sir W. Young being for many years a Director of the East India Company, and Captain Charritte being a person moving in the most respectable society. The trial engaged the Court the whole of Saturday and Monday last. The first count charged John Charritte, James Rallett, and Anna, wife of Allen Stewart, on the 1st day of November, in the 8th year of the present reign, with having unlawfully and corruptly received from one William Wotherspoon, the sum of £2000, for the appointment and nomination of one William White Wotherspoon to the office of a cadet in the service of the East India Company, against the form of the statute, &c.; and Sir William Young, Bart., with having aided and abetted the commission of the offence. The counts from the seventh to the 13th charged all the defendants with a conspiracy. Of the four defendants upon the record two only appeared to take their trial, viz., Captain Charritte and Sir William Young. They pleaded "Not guilty." The following brief statement of the facts presents the main features of the case. In the year 1843, a gentleman residing in Edinburgh, and there carrying on the business of solicitor to the Supreme Court, named Wotherspoon, renewed his acquaintance with Mrs. Stewart, one of the defendants, the widow of an officer in the army, who had herself been in India. He spoke to her about the desire of his eldest son to obtain employment in the army: she intimated that if a certain sum was paid, a commission might be obtained; and, on her shortly afterwards going to London from Edinburgh, Mr. Wotherspoon remitted to her there a sum of £1100 for that purpose. She did not succeed, and a sum of £1080 was, not long afterwards, returned to Mr. Wotherspoon, who, from that time till the middle of 1844, heard nothing further about the matter. Early in that year the defendant Rallett, whose conduct had, on a former occasion, been successfully investigated by the East India Company, applied to Mr. Trotter, for an introduction to an East India Director, or some person who could obtain an appointment. Mr. Trotter introduced Rallett to Captain Charritte, who was the secretary of the Asturias Mining Company, of which Sir William Young was a Director. In the month of June, 1844, Mrs. Stewart stated to Mr. Wotherspoon that she was then certain of obtaining an appointment for his son, and he gave to her, as she was about to leave Edinburgh for London, a draft on Jones Loyd and Co. for £1080. As, however, he expressed a desire to be in some way satisfied that the negotiation would proceed, she shortly afterwards sent him a letter containing another letter, in these words:—"My dear Charritte, I shall have much pleasure in giving an appointment to your young friend, William White Wotherspoon, in November.—W. Young." The order was duly cashed, in the following notes:—One of £500, one of £300, two of £100, five of £10, five of £5, and £3 2s. 1d. in cash, the discount being equal to the difference. The possession of these notes was traced to some of the defendants. Rallett paid a sum of £50 to Trotter for the introduction to Charritte, and the larger portion was received by Charritte himself. The nomination was made in November, 1844, and it then became necessary to complete the appointment by executing certain papers which, in a prescribed form, and along with other matters, contained a solemn declaration by the persons applying for, receiving, and giving an appointment, that they did not give or receive any actual or future pecuniary consideration for it. At that time, Mr. Wotherspoon knew nothing of Sir William Young, but, nevertheless, his son's petition for the appointment stated that he had been nominated by Sir William Young, at the recommendation of the petitioner's father. The next paper was the actual nomination, which stated that Sir William Young presented the young man on one of his nominations for the season, and added, "I declare from the character I have received of him from his father, who certifies that he is well acquainted with his character, family, and connexions," that he is fit to be recommended for an appointment. Then came a paper, with questions by the young man himself, which stated that his father recommended him, and a declaration by Sir William Young that he believed all the statements in these several papers to be correct. The next paper was a certificate of the young man's birth, which was sent to Edinburgh to be filled up. It was returned, and with it the required declaration, signed by Wotherspoon, that the nomination had been made without fee or reward. The son was appointed to the Madras army, and left for India in December, 1844. In the course of the year 1846 some investigations affecting Rallett took place, and ultimately a secret committee of Directors of the East India Company, of which Sir J. Hogg was chairman, was appointed to investigate the affair, the result of which was the present prosecution. The above state of facts having been proved in evidence, the Judge summed up, and the Jury, after a short deliberation, returned against Captain Charritte a general verdict of "Guilty;" and against Sir W. Young a verdict of "Guilty" on the second count only, that charging a conspiracy to obtain the appointment by sale.

TRIMEN V. LORD CURZON.—RAILWAY LIABILITIES.—On Tuesday, the plaintiff in this case sought to recover the sum of £1500, being the balance, after giving credit for £800 already paid, of a sum of £2300, which he claimed for work and labour as a surveyor, in preparing the maps, plans, and sections of the Oxford, Thame, High Wycombe, and Usbridge Junction Railway Company. The evidence showed that the plaintiff had been appointed surveyor at a meeting of the Provisional Committee, held on the 8th of October, 1845, and the minutes of which were afterwards confirmed at a meeting of the 20th of October, at which the defendant was present—this being the only meeting of the Committee at which the defendant was ever present—and that other steps in the management of the scheme, which were of a very important nature—such as extending the proposed line, increasing the original capital by a sum of £100,000, &c., &c.—were taken without the defendant's sanction.—Lord Denman left it to the Jury to say whether there had been any contract by the defendant or his agents to employ the plaintiff, and if so, whether the plaintiff had received as much as he was entitled to.—The Jury, after brief deliberation, returned a verdict for the defendant.

SECONDARIES' COURT.

PETO AND ANOTHER V. THE BIRMINGHAM AND OXFORD JUNCTION RAILWAY COMPANY.—On Wednesday, an action, brought by Messrs. Peto and Co., the railway contractors, to recover the sum of £21,000, for work and labour done for the Birmingham and Oxford Junction Railway Company, was tried. The action was brought on a guarantee given by the Company that the costs and expenses incurred by plaintiffs in the course of the works should be paid to them forthwith, but there was an arrear for one month to the above amount. A Judge's order had been obtained, on which defendants admitted their liability, and that the engineer, Mr. Brunell, had duly certified that the works had been done.—The Jury gave a verdict for the full amount claimed.

POLICE.

WESTMINSTER.

THREATENING TO SHOOT LORD G. BENTINCK.—Henry Watson, a middle-aged man, having the appearance of a decayed tradesman, was, on Saturday last, charged before Mr. Burrell with threatening to shoot Lord George Bentinck. It appeared that, about half-past seven o'clock on the previous evening, policeman Lockyer, A. 96, seeing the prisoner standing near the Members' entrance to the House of Commons, entered into conversation with him, when the prisoner offered him half-a-crown to show him Lord George Bentinck when he arrived, and on pressing him why he wished to know, he admitted that he wanted to shoot him. He was then taken into custody, when he said he could not help it, for Lord George was opposing Lord John Russell's measures, and that he had for two or three days past waited about the Park to tell the Queen about it, but she was out of town. Other evidence was also gone into to prove that the prisoner had on the previous (Thursday) evening, while being shaved in the Harrow-road, Paddington, said he was going to shoot Lord George Bentinck, and pulled out a bullet from his waistcoat pocket.—Mr. Burrell said he thought the matter one of a very serious nature, and ordered the prisoner to find bail, himself in £200, and two sureties in £100 each. The worthy magistrate subsequently directed the clerk to make the commitment with his impression that the prisoner was insane.

MARYLEBONE.

On Monday, Mr. Charles Coghlin, a sporting gentleman, attended before Mr. Broughton, by virtue of a warrant, obtained against him on Thursday last, charging him with having sent a hostile message, through Mr. Dillon Browne, M.P. for Mayo, to Mr. Alfred G. Prescott, brother-in-law to Lord Rensham, and late a Lieutenant in the Queen's Bays. The dispute arose from a turf transaction. Mr. Prescott's solicitor read a letter, in which Mr. Coghlin declared, that, if Mr. Prescott did not arrange matters with him by a certain day, he must treat him as a defaulter. The magistrate observed that he could see nothing in the letter which indicated an intention to commit a breach of the peace.—Mr. Prescott admitted that he had, some years ago, ridden a steeple chase with Mr. Coghlin, and that the latter won a sum of money upon the occasion. He had agreed to pay a portion of the amount to Mr. Coghlin in November last, when he expected to receive no less a sum than £2000, due to him from another gentleman.—Mr. Coghlin here stated, that at a late hour on Tuesday last Mr. Prescott went to his residence, and asked if the blackguard (meaning Mr. Coghlin) was in the house, for that if he was he would break every bone in his body. Mr. Coghlin admitted that, on his hearing of this outrage, he requested his friend, Mr. Dillon Browne, to wait upon Mr. Prescott to demand an explanation of such conduct. Mr. Browne accordingly saw him, when it was agreed that Mr. Prescott should send a friend to Mr. Browne that day, at five o'clock, to the Reform Club. Other particulars were gone into, and much warmth of feeling was displayed on either side.—The defendant said that he had no hostile intentions towards Mr. Prescott, and that he should take no notice whatever of him in future.—Upon this assurance the warrant was dismissed, and the parties then left the Court.

MIDDLESEX SESSIONS.—The adjourned December Sessions commenced on Tuesday morning at the Sessions House, Clerkenwell, with a list of 88 prisoners for trial; of that number 82 were indicted for felony. 51 were described as being imperfectly instructed in reading and writing, 35 were ignorant of both, and two only were stated to be able to read and write well.

On Saturday last, as one of the forenoon trains of the Edinburgh and Northern Railway was on the point of starting from the village of Kettle, a guard named Munro, while either in the act of ascending or descending from the carriage, missed his footing, and fell under the train, which passed over his body. The unfortunate man was instantly killed, his limbs being dreadfully lacerated and bruised by the accident.

RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE.

COMPARATIVE RATE OF SPEED ON RAILWAYS.—The principal railway companies have fixed the accelerated speed at which the trains will run during the winter quarter, at the following comparative rates:—Express trains on the Great Western travel at the rate of 48 miles an hour; North Western, 38; South Eastern, 35; Brighton Coast, 35; Eastern Counties, 29; and South Western, 39. First and second-class trains: Great Western, 32; North and South Western, 26; South Eastern and Brighton Coast, 23; and Eastern Counties, 24. Third class, or parliamentary trains: Great and North Western, 16; Brighton Coast and South Eastern, 18; South Western, 24; and Eastern Counties, 14. Mail trains travel at the same rate as first and second-class trains.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

Farewell! a word that has been, and must be,
Yet not the less a pain.

There is a natural regret that attends doing anything for the last time; the conviction carries a moral with it which none can canvass without, at least, grave earnestness.

Partings form a lesson hard to learn;
Ever nations feel this when they go to war:
There is a sort of unexpressed sorrow,
A kind of shock, that sets one's heart ajar;
At leaving even the most unpleasant people
And places, one keeps looking at the stepple.

We shall speak no more of the boon recreations of Old England in 1847. They will soon have passed, with many things that we can better spare, into the mighty maelstrom of time. Perhaps that recollection alone disposes us to look back in a spirit that arrays them with far brighter tints than they were when present—the sunset glories which memory is wont to shed over departed days. Still, the year on whose limits we stand was life with many a passage of goody pastime, well fitted to the character of the land we live in, and whose olden customs are worthy of their modern instances. It bore testimony to the progress of a better taste in our National Sports—keeping pace with the general social improvement. The defilements of coarseness and cruelty continue fast to disappear from our popular amusements.

It is unnecessary here to catalogue those sports once so common among all classes in this country, which were calculated to minister to a depraved excitement and to generate ungente feelings. Many—indeed most of them—have ceased to be practised altogether—and, though we are no advocates of the milk and water system of many occupations and diversions, we shrink from the contemplation of human nature rioting in the gory drunkenness of contests between brutes and hired gladiators still more brutal. We would have this nation of men, but that is no reason it should not be a nation of gentlemen.

Fox-hunting, that was to be blown clean from our fields by steam, still goes on and prospers. Railway conveyance has done at least as much for us against it. Those who have "cash and sense," wherever the chances or occasions of life may have distributed them, can now take their pastime in pleasant places. The dwellers amidst the hills of Cumberland or the holes of Stafford, may meet the Quorn or the Pychley, and finish the day by their own firesides. And they do so—and those who formerly saw a good county for one week in the season, now have only those to blame, if they follow the chase like the wild huntsmen in Der Freyschütz—or to the bottom of a coal-pit. We spoke of the prospects of the turf last week—they are "great, glorious, and golden." The position of all our recreative rural resources is equally satisfactory. The Game-Laws have lost much of their offensive operation—and the spirit of conciliation is divided equally between the game preserver and the game producer. Peace that reigns over our political policy is the bond of union for the landed proprietor and the land cultivator. Boon feelings are abroad—boon prospects and boon promises. Thus the season of '47 closes—may the course of its successor be cause for similar congratulation.

TATTERSALL'S.

MONDAY.—A better attendance than we have had for some time past, but no improvement in business. The only bets were 100 even on the field against Chandler and the Glancus gelding for the Wakefield Steeple Chase, 20 to 1 each against Sir Arthur and Richard the First for the Liverpool event, 2000 to 30 against Keleshe for the Chester Cup, 5 to 1 against Surplice for the 2000 Guineas Stakes, and 1100 to 200 against Scott's lot, and 40 to 1 each against Rosslyn and The Fowler for the Derby.

On Thursday the room was almost deserted, and the business was altogether unworthy of notice.

FINE ARTS.

LAUNCE'S LECTURE. Painted by T. F. DICKSEE. Lithographed by J. R. DICKSEE. Ackermann.

This is a very cleverly-executed lithograph of Mr. Dicksee's picture, exhibited last season at the Gallery of the Society of British Artists. It was, certainly, one of the most characteristic paintings in the Exhibition, and attracted much attention. We are not, therefore, surprised to find it selected for publication in this reasonable form. It is a very faithful transcript of the picture; the expression of Launce being admirably portrayed; and that of the dog is equally skilful. Altogether, this is an excellent illustration of Shakspearean humour, and deserves to become popular.

OLD CHRISTMAS.

DRAWN BY WILLIAM HARVEY.

I like them well—the curious preciseness
And all-pretended gravity of those
That seek to banish hence these harmless sports,
Have thrust away much ancient honesty.—*Old Poet.*

RIGHTLY to appreciate the spirited composition of the *tableau* upon the preceding page, the reader must carry his mind's eye back to the picturesque celebration of Christmas, such as we find it sung in an Anglo-Norman carol of the thirteenth century:—

Now, Lordings, listen to our ditty, Strangers coming from afar; Let poor Minstrels move your pity, Give us welcome, soothe our care: In this mansion, as they tell us, Christmas wassail keeps to-day; And, as the King of all good fellows, Reigns with uncontrolled sway.	Lordings, in these realms of pleasure Father Christmas yearly dwells; Deals out joy with liberal measure, Gloomy sorrow soon dispels: Numerous guests, and viands dainty, Fill the hall and grace the board; Mirth and beauty, peace and plenty, Solid pleasures here afford.
--	--

The scene is the carved screen of a baronial hall. Upon the central compartment hang the helmet, surcoat, and shield, of the period—the insignia of a physical triumph, encircled with holy and evergreens, the emblems of "the victory gained over the powers of darkness by the coming of Christ." This group is flanked with the weapons of war and the chase—the trusty sword and spear, the twanging bow and echoing horn—in trophied boast of the heroism of the lord.

High above the screen rises a triple window,
richly light,
Casting a dim religious light.

In the triptic are pictured three of the great events of our Saviour's life: in the centre, lies

the heaven-born child

All meanly wrapt;

and in the side compartments, are shadowed forth the baptism and the transfiguration. These pictures from "the divine checkerwork" of the story of our religion are the characteristic glorification of the Holy Season by the hand of art.

The eye descends now to the commemoration in a more secular sense. From the altar of plenty, the lord and his family are ministering to the wants of the lame, the halt, and the poor in this world's goods:—

Lordings, 'tis said the liberal mind,
That on the needy much bestows,
From Heaven's a sure reward shall find;
From Heaven, whence every blessing flows.
Who largely gives with willing hand,
Or quickly gives with willing heart;
His fame shall spread throughout the land,
His mem'ry thence shall ne'er depart!

Upon the opposite side is the coming into the hall of the Hobby-horse, with minstrelsy of pipe and tabor; in full-blown grotesque pride,

We come o'er the Mire and Moss;
We dance an Hobby-horse."

Upon the face of the altar is the welcoming of the Yule Clog, with sound of trumpet:

Come, bring with a noise,
My merrie, merrie boyes
The Christmas Log to the firing;
While my good dame, she
Bids ye all be free,
And drink to your hearts desiring.

Upon the altar are grouped the kindly fire and costly flagon, to gladden the hearts of all comers: here, too, is the Wassail Bowl, spiced to the brink:

Next crowne the bowle full
With gentle Lamb's Wool,
And sugar, nutmeg, and ginger;
With store of ale too;
And thus ye must doe
To make the Wassalle a swinger.

At the foot of the altar lie the animals killed in the chase; and forming an effective foreground to this impressive picture of OLDEN CHRISTMAS.



OLD CHRISTMAS.—DRAWN BY WILLIAM HARVEY





"MERRY CHRISTMAS!"—DRAWN BY KENNY MEADOWS.

CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR.

BY THOMAS MILLER.

Old Christmas is come for to keep open house,
And scorns to be guilty of starving a mouse:
Then come, boys, and welcome, for diet the chief,
There's plum-pudding, roast goose, minced pies, and roast beef.
Then let us be merry, and taste the good cheer,
And remember Old Christmas but comes once a year.

Old Christmas Carol.

Those Christmas bells as sweetly chime,
As on the day when first they rung
So merrily in the olden time,
And far and wide their music flung:
Shaking the tall grey ivied tower,
With all their deep melodious power:
They still proclaim to every ear,
Old Christmas comes but once a year.

Then he came singing through the woods,
And plucked the holly bright and green;
Pulled here and there the ivy buds;
Was sometimes hidden, sometimes seen—
Half-buried 'neath the mistletoe,
His long beard hung with flakes of snow;
And still he ever carolled clear,
Old Christmas comes but once a year.

He merrily came in days of old
When roads were few, and ways were foul,
Now staggered,—now some ditty trolled,
Now drank deep from his wassail bowl;
His holly silvered o'er with frost,
Nor never once his way he lost,
For reeling here, and reeling there,
Old Christmas came but once a year.

The hall was then with holly crowned,
'Twas on the wild-deer's antlers placed;
It hemmed the battered armour round,
And every ancient trophy graced.
It decked the boar's head, tusked and grim,
The wassail-bowl wreathed to the brim.
A summer-green hung everywhere,
For Christmas came but once a year.

His jaded steed the armed knight
Reined up before the Abbey gate;
By all assisted to alight,
From humble monk to abbot great.
They placed his lance behind the door,
His armour on the rush-strewn floor;
And then brought out the best of cheer,
For Christmas came but once a year.

The maiden then, in quaint attire,
Loosed from her head the silken hood,
And danced before the yule-clog fire—
The crackling monarch of the wood.
Helmet and shield flashed back the blaze,
In lines of light, like summer rays,
While music sounded loud and clear;
For Christmas came but once a year.

What, though upon his hoary head,
Have fallen many a winter's snow,
His wreath is still as green and red
As 'twas a thousand years ago.
For what has he to do with care?
His wassail-bowl and old arm-chair
Are ever standing ready there,
For Christmas comes but once a year.

No marvel Christmas lives so long,
He never knew but merry hours,
His nights were spent with mirth and song,
In happy homes, and princely bowers;
Was greeted both by serf and lord,
And seated at the festive board;
While every voice cried "welcome here,"
Old Christmas comes but once a year.

But what care we for days of old,
The knights whose arms have turned to rust,
Their grim boar's heads and pasties cold,
Their castles crumbled into dust?
Never did sweeter faces go,
Blushing beneath the mistletoe,
Than are to-night assembled here,
For Christmas still comes once a year.

For those old times are dead and gone,
And those who hailed them past away,
Yet still there lingers many a one,
To welcome in old Christmas Day.
The poor will many a care forget,
The debtor think not of his debt;
But, as they each enjoy their cheer,
Wish it was Christmas all the year.

And still around these good old times
We hang like friends full loth to part,
We listen to the simple rhymes
Which somehow sink into the heart.
"Half musical, half melancholy,"
Like childish smiles that still are holy,
A masquer's face dimmed with a tear,
For Christmas comes but once a year.

The bells which usher in that morn,
Have ever drawn my mind away
To Bethlehem, where Christ was born,
And the low stable where He lay,
In which the large-eyed oxen fed;
To Mary bowing low her head,
And looking down with love sincere,
Such thoughts brings Christmas once a year.

At early day the youthful voice
Heard singing on from door to door,
Makes the responding heart rejoice,
To know the children of the poor
For once are happy all day long;
We smile and listen to the song,
The burthen still remote or near,
"Old Christmas comes but once a year."

Upon a gayer, happier scene,
Never did holly-berries peer,
Or ivy throw its trailing green,
On brighter forms than there are here,
Nor Christmas in his old arm-chair
Smile upon lips and brows more fair,
Then let us sing amid our cheer,
Old Christmas still comes once a year.

THE THREE DENOMINATIONS.—A meeting of the deputed of the "Three Denominations" (Independents, Presbyterians, and Baptists) was held on Monday afternoon, at the King's Head, in the Poultry, at which a new election of representatives took place. The Secretary read the report of the Committee for the past year, in which a description was given of their exertions in opposition to the Government scheme of education, and the endowment of the Irish priesthood. The result of the Committee's proceedings was, that there were at present not less than sixty-two members in Parliament who were opposed to all grants of public money for religious endowments. The report was adopted, and petitions to both Houses of Parliament were agreed to, praying for the removal of the civil disabilities of the Jews. It was also resolved that the case of John Simonds, now confined for non-payment of fivepence church rates, be referred to the Committee, to take such steps as they might be advised.

LITERATURE.

NOW AND THEN. By SAMUEL WARREN, F.R.S. Blackwood.

We have received a copy of this work, but only in time to do little more than glance at its pages, and detach a few specimen extracts, in time for our present Number. It will be seen that two of these passages are very appropriate to the season; indeed, the work may be received as a "Christmas Book" of the first class. The main interest of the story turns upon the son of a decayed old villager (Ayliffe) being tried for murder, and saved by the intercession of the vicar of the parish (Mr. Hylton). Our extracts will convey some idea of the high, religious, and moral tone of the work, as well as of the power and perspicuity evinced by the author in detailing his incidents. The last quoted extract is a remarkable instance of this great command in conducting a narrative.

HOLY CHRISTMAS.

"All hail, thou season of rightful, but solemn and elevating joy! Oh, what event, gracious, stupendous, and awful, dost thou not commemorate! What but the mysterious—yet foretold—advent of the Almighty Redeemer of mankind, the joy and glory of heaven and earth! In the wrapt contemplation, behold the very dust of earth become instinct with heavenly intelligence: even as the stars sang together for joy! Let a universal HOSANNA fill the hearts and voices of mankind. For He came! and was God With Us; dwelling in the flesh! With us! HERE! on this dim speck, amidst the bewildering and inconceivable vastness of the universe, singled out for such purpose in the unsearchable wisdom of the Most High! Angels unseen! bow with us—your present dust-clad brethren—your heads in awe profound! Together let us celebrate this Mystery, saying, 'Glory to God in the highest; and on earth PEACE, GOOD-WILL TOWARDS MEN!' Thus, heaven-kindled, is the joyousness of Christmas: soul-elevating: heart-opening. Therefore do all Christian people welcome this solemnly cheerful season; their hearts being first prostrate before God, and then expanding towards man, in deeds of charity and virtue."

"But the coming of this hallowed season cannot, alas! banish gloom, poverty, and wretchedness,—no, not even for one day—from among mankind. The great and the humble, the distinguished and the obscure, the rich and the poor, the gifted and the simple, may alike have their happy or their miserable Christmas. Be the season, therefore, approached with mingled fear and hope; and, when past, regarded with pious reflection, with reverential gratitude, and cheerful submission."

CHRISTMAS IN THE CASTLE AND THE COTTAGE.

"There were, indeed, as old Ayliffe had supposed, grand rejoicings at the Castle that Christmas, to celebrate the first anniversary of the birth-day of the future heir to the Castle; and many distinguished visitors had been invited, whose equipages had thundered at intervals past old Ayliffe's cottage for a day or two before that on which Lord Alkmond had passed, as has been described, he having been detained in town by military business, rendered necessary by his having obtained a somewhat extended leave of absence."

"The rejoicings were not to be confined to the brilliant circle assembled at the Castle: the order had gone forth for corresponding festivities and holiday-making among the villagers and the surrounding tenantry; for all of which Lord Milverstone had most bountifully provided, after the usual fashion of old English hospitality, on a grand scale. His frigid courtesy was, on that occasion, melted into cheerful cordiality. Except during a brief tenure of high office, and of great political power, his ambitious and craving soul had never appeared so nearly satisfied. The domestics of the Castle reaped a rich harvest; the pecuniary remembrances of the season being doubled, from the highest to the lowest, by the Earl's express direction. Alas, even half of the sum paid to the humblest helper in the stables would have provided a substantial repast on Christmas-day for the melancholy occupants of the cottage; but no one in that magnificent structure ever thought of them. Had it not been for the kindness of Mr. Hylton, who had forwarded to them some little contribution towards a Christmas dinner, scarcely more than a nominal one would have been theirs! Cheerless and disconsolate though Christmas threatened to be with old Ayliffe, as far as this world's hopes and happiness were concerned; he rose very early in the morning, while even yet the stars were glittering brightly in the cold clear sky, and all was solemn silence. What pure and elevating thoughts were his, whose spirit dropped for a while the fetters of earth, while mounting into heavenly contemplation! The old man was the only one from the cottage who made his appearance at church that day; and the vigilant eye of Mr. Hylton could scarce detect his distant figure, lost as it was in the novel crowd of gentle and simple, from the Castle, that occupied the church. When he returned home, he found his son and daughter far more despondent even than he had left them. The former seemed scarcely capable of speaking in answer to either his wife or father; who attributed the main cause of his depression and taciturnity, to grief at losing the situation which Mr. Hylton had been striving to obtain for him. All three of them now gave it up in despair; but none of them knew of another effort on the behalf of young Ayliffe which had been made by the indefatigable Mr. Hylton on his visit to his friend, and which was likely to be successful, viz., to obtain for him the situation, then vacant, of bailiff to a wealthy squire, related to the clergyman who had demurred to appoint young Ayliffe to the mastership of the school. Here Mr. Hylton was sanguine of success; and he had good grounds for expecting, within a few days' time, to be able to announce to that unhappy little family an event which would be really to them all like life from the dead. Only one visitor had the Ayliffes on that dreary Christmas-day, and it was Mr. Hylton, who went to them after the morning service. The snow lay nearly a foot deep, and continued to flutter down thickly, threatening to do so for hours. He carried with him a bottle of port wine, which he gave to them with a solemn and hearty benediction; at the same time placing a five-shilling piece in the trembling hand of Mrs. Ayliffe, as a Christmas-box for the little Adam. There was not much fire on the hearth; and they were just concluding the meal for which they had been indebted to Mr. Hylton as he entered. They all looked so sad—even old Ayliffe—that Mr. Hylton had to announce the strong hopes which he entertained that better days were, through his efforts, in store for them; but, after balancing the matter for some little time in his mind, humane prudence prevailed, and he left them to return to his own snug Christmas fire-side; partaking of those homely comforts awaiting him, with a sense of quiet enjoyment, which was somewhat dashed, however, by a recollection of the cheerless scene which he had shortly before quitted. The first glass of wine which he took after dinner accompanied the following expression of his benevolent feelings:—"May God Almighty bless all mankind, and especially the virtuous poor, with his choicest blessings. Let us drink to the health of all my parishioners, peer and peasant, in castle and cottage—all this day only remembering who it was that lay in the manger, and why. And may God bless thee, my Mary," said he, embracing his wife; "and thee, our only little one—thou last lamb of our flock," he added, folding his little child in his arms, and kissing her, as did the mother, in silence. Their hearts were full: and their eyes unconsciously glanced at several chairs ranged at the farther end of the room, which had no longer any stated occupants. Presently, however, they got into a more cheerful vein, which was interrupted for a moment only when, in talking over their neighbours and parishioners, and the events of the past year, they spoke of the unfortunate Ayliffes."

THE SUSPECTED MURDERER.

"Put the prisoner to the bar," said the officer of the Court to the gaoler; and there was instantly a solemn silence, broken presently by the clanking sound of irons; and, amidst beating hearts, hurried breathing, and eyes intently fixed on the dock, there slowly approached it, accompanied by two gaolers, and walking not without difficulty in his heavy irons, a tall, marvellously well-proportioned man, apparently about thirty years old, with a countenance that, especially irradiated just then by a transient gleam of sunshine, said instantly to all present that it could never be that of a MURDERER. All were struck by it. 'Twas a frank manly face, of a dauntless English cast, yet looked somewhat emaciated from illness and confinement. But for this, there was not among the gentle or simple who beheld him, a finer specimen of the Saxon countenance, including even the colour and disposition of his hair, somewhat disordered though it seemed. He stood straight up at the bar, with an air of manly and somewhat indignant confidence; having bowed respectfully to the Judge, who was watching him with searching scrutiny. Ayliffe's pale face had reddened a little as he first encountered so exciting a scene, on an occasion to him so unspeakably awful and momentous. His light blue eyes spoke eloquently in his favour, being full of intelligence and spirit, and indicative of goodness; but there was much of suffering in them. As the Judge gazed at him, this favourable impression was deepening, but was effaced in a moment by habitual caution, and a recollection of what he had read concerning the case, in the depositions."

THE KING AND HIS MINISTER.

"Impelled by an irresistible impulse, and fortified by an unwavering conviction of the prisoner's innocence, Mr. Hylton, on the Friday evening, as a last resource, had, relying on the King's well-known sternly independent character, written a letter to his Majesty, under cover to a nobleman then in London attending Parliament, and with whom Mr. Hylton had been acquainted at College. He earnestly entreated his Lordship to lose not a moment in securing a personal interview with the King; or, at all events, the delivery into his Majesty's hands of the letter in question, touching as it did life and death; its object being to save from execution, on the Monday morning, a man who was, in the writer's opinion, as innocent of the death of which he had, nevertheless, been found guilty, as the Secretary of State himself, to whom application on behalf of the convict had been unhappily made in vain. Mr. Hylton's letter to the King was expressed in terms of grave eloquence. It set out with calling his Majesty's attention to the execution, six months before, of a man, for a crime of which, three days afterwards, he was demonstrated to have been innocent. Then the letter gave a moving picture of the exemplary life and character of the prisoner, and of his father; pointed to testimonials given in his favour at the trial, and added the writer's own; together with the most emphatic and strong conviction which could be expressed in language, that, whoever might have been the perpetrator of this most atrocious murder, it was not the prisoner doomed to die on Monday. It then conjured his Majesty, by every consideration which could properly have weight with a Sovereign intrusted with authority by Almighty God to govern according to justice and mercy, to give his personal attention to the case then laid before him, and act thereon according to his Majesty's own Royal and clement judgment. This letter Mr. Hylton's noble acquaintance travelled thirty miles, at great inconvenience, to lay before the King; who did not receive it till past midnight, at St. James's, and after he had been in bed for upwards of an hour. On hearing, however, from the nobleman who brought the letter, that it was one of a very urgent nature, concerning life and death, those who were entrusted with guarding the Royal repose, caused it to be broken by the delivery of the packet. His Majesty instantly got out of bed, and, after hastily glancing over the letter, directed Lord Farnborough to be sent for forthwith, and to bring along with him all the papers he had or could lay his hand on, relating to Adam Ayliffe, then lying under sentence of death for the murder of Lord Alkmond. His Majesty had paced his chamber many times, very impatiently, before his astonished Minister arrived; for the latter had had to go from his private residence, where he also was in bed, to his office, in order to get the documents required by

the King, and had experienced great difficulty in finding them; all clerks and others being, as might well be supposed, out of the way. Immediately on his entering the King's ante-chamber, Lord Farnborough encountered his Majesty, who, in a bluff way, begged him to be seated at a table duly furnished with lights and writing materials; and then the King requested to hear the whole facts of the case, to which he paid great attention. When Lord Farnborough had, in his usual terse and emphatic fashion, put his Majesty in possession of his Lord Farnborough's view of the case, assuring his Majesty, with expressions of profound respect, that a clearer case for hanging there never had been, if justice were to be any longer administered in the country; his Lordship appeared confounded when the King said, very thoughtfully, that he was by no means so clear on the subject as seemed his Lordship; and, in fact, felt so uneasy on the matter, being one of life and death, that he could not rest to bed without deciding one way or the other. Lord Farnborough assured the King that he need feel no anxiety whatever on a matter which was exclusively within the province of his Ministers.

"Why, look you, my Lord Farnborough," quoth the King, somewhat hastily and sternly, "suppose you and I differ on this matter?"
"Please your Majesty, we are your Majesty's sworn responsible servants!"
"So, so, because you are my servants, my Lord Farnborough, I am to be your puppet, eh?—to register your decrees *volens volens*! By those that begot me, and those before me, but I will show you otherwise! Look you, my Lord, and all of you that serve me; I am set over my people to protect them, and am answerable for them, to Him who set me over them: and if it cost me my crown, look you, as I must answer for it hereafter, I won't see the humblest creature calling me King, deprived of his life, even though according to law (which can't give back life taken wrongly), if I in my conscience do verily doubt whether he ought to die."

Lord Farnborough said something rather faintly about a constitutional monarchy:—

"Ay," said the King, catching the word, "but I am also a conscientious King, my Lord. My advisers may be impeached in Parliament if they give me evil advice; but I have to answer to the King of Kings; and none but a King can tell a King's feelings in these matters. God Almighty only knows what I suffered some half a year ago, in a matter of this sort—eh, my Lord? What say you to that? Have you forgotten it?"

"Not at all, please your Majesty; but I take leave humbly to represent, Sir, in the matter now before your Majesty, that your Majesty has no discretion herein, but must allow the law to take its course."

"I won't, I won't, my Lord. There are features about this case that I don't like; and, in short, I shall not have this man die. Transport him for life, if you please; then, if we be wrong, he may return: but—there are paper, pens, and ink; pray, my Lord, let it be done instantly, for time is precious; I will put my hand to it now—and then methinks I shall sleep soundly till morning."

"Pardon me, Sir," began his Lordship, with an air of vast deference:—

"No, no! not you—I have nought to pardon you; 'tis another I mean to pardon."

"Sir, this really is one of the plainest cases of guilt!"

"Did you not say the very same thing to me, my Lord, on the occasion I have just spoken of?" inquired the King very solemnly: "did I not then say I had doubts? but I yielded to your certainty, my Lord! And what followed?"

"Please your Majesty, we are all frail; all human institutions are liable to error."

"Therefore," said the King quickly, "ought we the longer to doubt, in matters of life and death, my Lord?"

"I do assure your Majesty that this interference of your Majesty will give great dissatisfaction."

"To whom? Where? Why?" inquired the King sternly. "What is that to me, when my conscience is concerned, who have sworn an oath, when God Almighty placed my crown on my head, to cause law and justice, in MEREY, to be executed in all my judgments? Who swore that oath, my people, or I? I did, and with God's assistance will keep my oath. And as for my people, they are a brave and virtuous people, and won't obey me the less, because I will not again let any one die on a gibbet, hastily."

Lord Farnborough remained with his eyes very seriously fixed on the King, and his pen in his hand, which hung down by his side.

"Let it be done, my Lord," said the King peremptorily: and his Minister obeyed."

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS.

Of late years a very intellectual fashion has sprung up—that of presenting Books to "children of a larger growth." Formerly, such gifts were almost confined to the nursery and the play-room; but the custom has so advanced in importance, that it has given rise to a class of books, enlisting the genius of some of our best writers. The change, or rather the extension, of this Christmas custom, is, at least, a healthy indication of the public taste; and, among the first fruits of the season, we are happy to chronicle the following:—

MIDSUMMER EVE: A FAIRY TALE OF LOVE. By Mrs. S. C. HALL.

Longman and Co.

This is a very elegant reprint from the *Art Union Journal*. The machinery is the belief that a child, whose father has died before its birth, is placed by Nature under the guardianship of the Fairies; and that, if born on Midsummer Eve, it becomes their rightful property. Within this framework, Mrs. Hall has traced the progress of a young girl's mind from infancy to womanhood; the good and evil influences to which it is subjected; and the trials inseparable from a contest with the world.

All this is gracefully and picturesquely narrated; and accompanied by a profusion of engravings, which are the ideal of illustration. Among the artists are Maclean, Stanfield, Creswick, E. M. Ward, Elmore, Frost, J. Noel Paton, F. Goodhall, Topham, Kenny Meadows, Franklin, &c.; the majority of whose designs are a rich feast of fancy. The volume is sumptuously bound in green and gold, and is altogether produced in exquisite taste.

THE GOOD SHUNAMMITE. Longman and Co.

An illuminated missal-like volume, illustrating the sojourn of Elisha with the Shunammite woman (2nd Kings, chap. iv.). First, we have a title-page, of florid design, in gold and colours; the incidents, pictured in six scenes, beautifully coloured, each page with an illuminated border, and each verse with an illuminated letter; the whole produced under the superintendence of Lewis Gruner. The binding is a clever imitation of antique carved work, of richly ornamented Gothic design.

THE PLAYMATE: A Pleasant Companion for Spare Hours. Cundall.

This is a miscellany for the play-room, illustrated in a style hitherto rarely attempted in books of this class. Their artistic spirit is really beautiful: they are upon steel and wood. The literary contents are tales and poems, vignettes from natural history, &c.; but the main charm of the book lies in the intellectual yet picturesque character of its engravings.

THE FAMILY JO: MILLER; a Drawing-Room Jest Book. Orr and Co.

An elegant reprint of "Joe Miller's Jests; or, The Wit's Vade-Mecum," interspersed with a number of repartees, of younger growth. The appearance of the book is wondrously seasonable, and, with its wit, old and new, will be acceptable to many a circle. The jests and witticisms are preceded by Joe Miller, a biography, a very entertaining account of Jack Motley (for such was Joe Miller), his career as an actor and wit; the editions of his Jests, his portraits, &c., comprising some very curious antiquarian and bibliographic gossip. The book is very neatly printed, and illustrated with a veritable portrait of the Jester; a clever title-page by Kenny Meadows; Motley's benefit ticket, designed by Hogarth; the Black Jack, Portsmouth-street, Clare M. one of his favourite resorts; his tombstone in Portugal-street, &c.

TALES AND POEMS. By LORD BYRON. Orr and Co.

A reprint of "The Giaour," "The Bride of Abydos," "The Corsair," "The Siege of Corinth," and "The Prisoner of Chillon," sumptuously illustrated with vignettes on steel, by Finden, from designs by H. Warren. The classic localities, as well as the leading incidents, of the Tales and Poems, are beautifully depicted, and engraved in chastely-effective style.

LORD RECTOR AND THE GLASGOW UNIVERSITY.—It has now been officially announced to the students attending the University that Colonel Mure, M.P. for the county of Renfrew, will be installed on Tuesday, the 4th proximo, when he will deliver his inaugural address, having been unavoidably prevented from doing so immediately before the Christmas holidays.

INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT.—In conformity with the treaty lately concluded between Prussia and England, relative to copyright, two editions of the German translation of Bulwer's "Lucretia" have been seized at Berlin, and the publishers prosecuted.

In consequence of the new postal arrangements to come into operation on and after the 1st January next, with reference to the foreign mails, which will be made up at the same hour as the inland mails, it is said to be the intention of the leading merchants to alter the 'Change hours for transacting business in the Foreign Exchanges, making them from two to three o'clock, instead of from three to four o'clock, the present hours. The alteration, it is expected, will be very acceptable to the clerks in foreign houses, who have hitherto been generally detained till late at business on the evenings of the foreign post nights.

BACHELORS.—The delightful watering-place of Weston-super-Mare, among other attractions, presents the most favourable opportunities to bachelors, as there are now sojourning there no less than eighty single ladies of all ages, whilst there are only two bachelors to raise their hopes and expectations.

The *Tay*, mail steamer, from Southampton to the West Indies, put into Corunna on the 11th inst., with head and water parted from the stem, and some slight damage to upper works. She started again in 48 hours on her voyage, all well. In consequence of the delay, the captain intended to proceed direct to St. Thomas, without calling at Bermuda, by which arrangement he would make up for lost time.

ATTEMPTED MURDER.—A person named John Griffiths was committed by the bench of magistrates at Wolverhampton, on Saturday last, for having attempted to murder Mr. Cooper, the surgeon to the union workhouse, by stabbing him in the abdomen. Mr. Cooper had on that day gone into one of the wards of the union, when the prisoner flew at him, and plunged a knife at his abdomen saying, "You are the person I want to see." The point of the knife came in contact with the buckle of a belt, or he must have been instantaneously killed. In answer to the charge, he stated that Mr. Cooper had refused to let him go into the able-bodied side of the house, and he was determined to finish him yet. One of the paupers said that he had frequently heard the prisoner say he would murder Mr. Cooper some day or other.

OUR DOMESTIC COLUMN.

THE ORPHAN'S CHRISTMAS TREE.
(From a Correspondent.)

Through the streets of a fair city
'Twas the eve of Christmas Day,
A little friendless stranger
Pursued his weary way.

His heart was full of sorrow,
And he bitterly did cry:
"Though all around are happy,
I wish that I could die."

"The lights are shining in each hall,
And the streets are bright as day,
And the Christmas Tree is glittering
With gold and flowers gay;

"And through the frozen window
panes,
Fair children's forms I see,
All joyful, gay, and happy,
But none remember me.

"Oh! Once I had a mother
And a bright and joyful home;
Why did she go away from me
Beyond the skies to roam?"

"And leave her little orphan
To wander through the cold,
Without a roof to shelter him,
In garments torn and old.

"In all this night's rejoicing,
Is there no place for me?
No corner in one happy heart
For Charity to be?"

"Is there no nook in some wide hall,
Where I unseem may lie?
Oh, then for very happiness
I'd rest me there and die.

"Oh, dear and holy Christ! I cried,
"I have no friend but thee;
Though all the world forsake me
I pray thee think on me:

"I've no father, I've no mother,
And my life is well nigh gone;
Have pity on me Holy One
For I am all alone."

Then, with his frozen little hands
He tapped at many a pane,
But 'mid the din of revelry
His feeble cry was vain.

At length o'ercome with want and woe,
He heaved a last faint sigh;
And on the cold and icy earth,
He laid him down to die.

But soon as on this cruel world
His heavy eyes were closed,
And peaceful in the sleep of death
His weary limbs reposed,

There broke a vision on his sight
All beautiful and fair;
And sounds of music and of joy
Came floating through the air.

Then, by his side a spirit stood,
With arow of dazzling light,
Of childish form and stature,
And robed in garments white.

It said "I am that holy Christ
You call'd upon but now,
And I once was in this mortal world
As sorrowful as thou.

"Poor little lonely stranger,
I will thy father be;
For never did one call in vain
Who truly called on me.

"Then look up child of misery,
Behold thy Christmas Tree;
And tell me, in yon lighted halls
Can there a fairer be?"

He raised his radiant hand t'wards
Heaven,
And forth stood gloriously,
With branches glittering o'er with stars,
The Orphan's Christmas Tree.

And Angels bending from the skies,
Stretched forth their hands to him;
And drew him to that father-land
Peopled with Cherubim.

There all his bitter tears are dried,
And all his sorrows o'er;
And in the arms of Holy Christ
He rests for evermore.

Then, little children list my tale,
And pray to God on high,
Who heeds the Orphan's prayer for help,
And hears the humblest cry.

HOW TO MAKE A CHRISTMAS TREE.

The Christmas-tree is the top of a young pine, fixed in a large flower-pot, or tub, filled with mould, which, with the pot or tub, is hidden by moss, so as to represent a small enclosed garden. It is placed in a room: the branches of the fir are trimmed a little up to the very top, and loaded with small wax tapers, put into little tin sockets made for the purpose, and fixed on each branch at the smallest possible distance from each other; so that, when these are all lighted, the tree appears in one perfect blaze. The branches are decorated with flowers, gilded apples, walnuts, and other bonbons; interspersed, here and there, with painted wax, and hung with gifts, which are destined not only for the members of the family, but frequently including even the servants. In the evening, at the appointed time, when all is prepared, the doors of the room, in which the tree has been thus decorated and illuminated, are thrown open, and the company assembled, suddenly dazzled by its brilliancy, expressions of admiration are heard on all sides; and, when these are over, and the sight sufficiently gratified, then there commences a most animated merry scene, in the tree being plundered of its fruit and presents till all have vanished. The gifts are either labelled, with the names of the parties for whom they are intended, or they are numbered; and, in the latter case, the parties are furnished with corresponding numbers on slips of paper, and they claim their presents accordingly.—From a very useful and entertaining volume, entitled "The German Christmas Eve."

SPEAKERS OF EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

It is a matter of universal experience that certain physical conditions promote both the intensity and extension of epidemic diseases. These conditions may be comprised in impure and humid air and unsuitable food, or—what more rarely occurs amidst a population, in which upwards of £24,000,000 per annum, or more than five times the amount of the poor rates, is spent in ardent spirits alone, and nearly an equal amount in tobacco and fermented liquors—want of means to obtain sufficient food. Added to these, are unsuitable or insufficient clothing, sometimes ill-constructed dwellings, and defective appliances for the regulation of warmth or protection against cold.—First Report of the Metropolitan Sanitary Commissioners.

CHRISTMAS CUSTOM.

The church of Santa Maggiore, in Rome, possesses a trough said to be the manger in which the infant Jesus was laid at his birth. It consists of a few discoloured and nearly rotten boards, and is carefully preserved in a magnificent crystal case. On Christmas morning, before break of day, it is carried in solemn procession round the church, while thousands of devotees kneel down as it passes to pay it adoration.—The Boat and the Caravan, an excellent "Family Tour."

LADIES IN INDIA.

In the old time, it was considered a reproach to a woman that she was going to India. Her enterprise was regarded as an indecent attempt to force herself upon the hapless bachelors of the East, whose pretensions she was supposed to measure by the length of their respective purses, and the chances of their early dissolution.—From Real Life in India, a capital Guide to the Indian Public Service; just published.

LONDON SEWERS.

Not the slightest precaution appears to be used to guard against the choking up of our metropolitan sewers. No immediate inconvenience results, and there is plenty of room, and to spare, we may be sure, when we hear from the City Surveyor of Sewers, in his evidence before the Health of Towns Commission, that even coffins and tombstones, a bedstead, and the beads of the parish, lie in them, to be detected only in general explorations. Under a properly regulated system, how easily would these abuses be prevented.—First Report of the Metropolitan Sanitary Commissioners.

THE GOOD VICAR.

Mr. Hylton had no income except that derived from his vicarage; and being very easy in the matter of his tithes, was sometimes not inconsiderably inconvenienced. Yet his charities, substantial and unostentatious, failed not; good Mrs. Hylton and her housekeeper made their cowslip, ginger, and elderberry wine, ever in due season; and many a bottle of it had been carried by Mr. Hylton himself, on his visits to those who needed it. He kept one cow, which went by the name of Every-one's-cow; for when it had yielded sufficient, every morning and evening, for the wants of the parsonage, any one else who pleased might similarly supply themselves from what was left; and at milking hours were always to be seen one or two of the poorer villagers, pitcher in hand, waiting for their turn.—From "Now and Then," by S. Warren, F.R.S.; just published.

THE PRINCESS ROYAL.

The following interesting little anecdote of the Princess Royal was lately current at Windsor. Mr. Brown, the apothecary to the Castle, was in the habit of visiting the Royal children every morning, and the Princess persisted in addressing him as "Brown." Her governess insisted that "Mr." should be prefixed, and threatened that, if her little Royal Highness did not remember this on the next occasion, she should be sent to bed as a punishment. The morning after, when Mr. Brown appeared, the Princess, addressing him, said, "Good morning, Brown"—and good night, too, for I am just going to bed."—Family Jo: Mitler.

ELEGANT STARVATION.

A thoughtless young gentleman, of good family, although he had spent every shilling, and worn out every trace of credit, lived, with a devoted partner of his poverty, in a splendid villa near the Regent's-park. Jewels, books, wearing apparel, and every description of moveable, had long disappeared from this exquisite residence, to supply the common necessities of life. "Yesterday," our hero boasted to a confidential friend, towards the end of this ruin, "we supped off a pair of ear-rings." That case of champagne in the coal-cellar is the production of some thirty very dry volumes of the "Encyclopaedia Britannica." We have dined during the past week off my dress coat; and this very day, had it not been for my polished boots, we should have been obliged to breakfast without Bolognas." Of course, these fearful privations increased, till, some time after, they reached a climax. One day, the hopeful economist returned home, about dinner-time, in a state of famishing hunger, and entreated his lovely housekeeper to order dinner. "Dinner?" she repeated, "there is not a scrap in the house, nor an article left to procure one with!" "Surely," exclaimed the other, slapping his forehead in despair, "something can be snatched from the wreck—I have it. We can yet avert from our countenances the horrid stare of starvation. 'Is a desperate act, but it must be done!' "What?" inquired the lady anxiously. "What? Why, fry the gold fish, and roast the canary!"—Family Jo: Mitler.

PICKLED EGGS.

In the counties of Hants and Dorset, Pickled Eggs constitute a very prominent feature in the farmhouse store-rooms. The mode in which the good dames pickle them is simply thus—at the season of the year when their stock of eggs is plentiful, they boil some four or six dozen in a capacious saucepan until they become quite hard. They then, after removing the shells, lay them carefully in large-mouthed jars, and pour over them scalding vinegar, well seasoned with whole pepper, utopia, a few pieces of ginger, and a few cloves of garlic. When cold, they are bunged down close, and in a month are fit for use. Where eggs are plentiful the art to pickle is by no means expensive, and is a relishing accompaniment to cold meat.

MONETARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

Money has been rather more in demand during the week, both on the Discount Market and Stock Exchange. In the Discount Market prices have varied according to circumstances, from 5½ to 7 per cent.; on the Stock Exchange 4 per cent. is about the average.

The Directors of the Bank of England, at their usual weekly meeting, on Thursday, reduced the rate of discount on ordinary commercial paper to 5 per cent. It is understood that an animated discussion preceded this decision.

The suspension of Messrs. Thomas and Joseph Sands and Co., of Liverpool, American merchants, and owners of the screw steamer, Sarah Sands, transpired on Monday. The liabilities are stated to be £90,000; and anticipations of a favourable liquidation can scarcely be indulged in.

In order to harmonise business with the new foreign postal arrangements, a resolution has been agreed to by the leading merchants, "That from and after the commencement of the new year, 'Change hours on Tuesdays and Fridays shall be from two to three o'clock, instead of from three to four o'clock."

The private advices by the Overland Mail indicate that when intelligence shall be received to the effect produced at Calcutta by the whole of the failures on this side, it will prove disastrous. Up to the date of these advices the only failures announced in connexion with the East were those of Gemmell Brothers, Gower and Co., and Reid, Irving, and Co. So great was the alarm produced even from these, that private bills on England appear to have become unobtainable, while it is remarked by some writers, "we see nothing but general ruin for the Calcutta houses."

With regard, however, to the balance of trade, some improvement (except as respects the China market) may be considered to have taken place. The demand for manufactured goods has been well maintained, while exports both from Bombay and Calcutta have been less active. The account of the position of the Union Bank of Calcutta represent it as not being likely to suffer in connexion with the English failures announced up to the last dates, and it is also said that their immediate liabilities, in the shape of deposits, do not exceed £20,000, while, for their post notes and other engagements coming due, they are provided with produce, against which they can draw on this country. It is, however, admitted that the mass of the capital of the concern is irretrievably locked up in indigo factories, and it seems, therefore, vain to expect that they can sustain themselves when the full news of our failures, which are certain to hit some of the heavy debtors of the bank, shall have arrived out, together with the drafts which, since the 24th of October, have been returned dishonoured by their London agents. This is the last mail which will bring remittances to the suspended houses on this side. The amount received by Messrs. Cockerell and Co., in bills and produce, is, we understand, between £30,000 and £40,000.

The long anticipated meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Trueman and Cook took place on Wednesday, when the report of Mr. Coleman, the accountant, addressed to the Bank Stockholders, was read to the meeting. The total liabilities amounted to £319,780 15s. 2d., and the assets to £226,321 7s. 5d. In calculating the assets, allowance, of course, must be made for the probabilities of loss arising from the winding up of the different large suspended firms with whom Messrs. Trueman and Cook were connected. The following offer was made to the meeting, and accepted:—"That the house be prepared to pay 20s. in the pound. The first instalment of 5s. on the 18th of January, 1848; the second on the 18th of May; the third on the 18th September, 1848. Afterwards two instalments of 2s. 6d. in the pound, payable on the 18th of January, and 18th of April 1849." The inspectors appointed were Joshua Bates, Esq., Henry D. Blyth, Esq., and Eric Erickson, Esq. Mr. Trueman, son, Mr. Trueman, jun., and Mr. William Cook, are relieved from attending the administration, which will be conducted by Mr. Cook and Mr. Windsor. It was also agreed that any of the partners might act as brokers.

The events of the week in the various markets have been quite unimportant. On Monday the English Funds opened with a slight improvement upon Saturday's closing quotations, marking 85 for the opening ex. div. An improvement to 85½ to 86 was the result of the day's operations, although some sales, at one period, had depressed, for a moment, the quotation to 84½. On Tuesday there was a general absence of business; and the Market showed signs of flatness, an endeavour to still further depress it was made by an absurd rumour of the abdication of Louis Philippe. To this was added the bona fide news of an insurrection in Greece. Prices, consequently, yielded, receding to 84½ ex. div., but afterwards attained the previous day's closing quotation. Wednesday's market was inactive, many of the leading dealers having, in the present dull state of affairs, prepared for quitting town during the Christmas holidays. Consols closed at 85½ to 86 ex. div. for the opening. On Thursday there was rather more buoyancy in consequence of the reduction in the rate of interest by the Bank Directors. The closing prices of the week are:—Reduced, 84½; New 3½ per Cent. Ann., 86½; Long Ann., 8 11-16; India Bonds, under £1000, 11 dis.; South Sea Stock, Old Annuities, 82½; Consols for Account, 85½; Exchequer Bills, £1000, 9 p.; Ditto, £500, 11 p.; Ditto, Small, 10 p.

The variations in the Foreign Market have been confined to the difference, between the buying and selling prices. The latest bargains that have been made are at the following rates:—Chilian Bonds 6 per cent., 88; Ditto, Three per Cent., 49; Equador Bonds, 2½; Grenada Bonds, One per Cent., 18½; Ditto Deferred, 3½; Mexican, Five per Cent., 184½; Portuguese, Four per Cent., 22½; Russian Bonds, 107; Spanish Five per Cent., 1840, 18½; Ditto, Passive, 4; Ditto, Three per Cent., 29½; Dutch Two-and-a-Half per Cent., 12 Guild., 5s.

The Share Market has been very heavy, with a considerable depreciation in prices. This may, however, be regarded as a natural result of the late failures, and the pressure for money. During the period of a low rate for money, railways became a favourite source of investment; and the surplus capital of commercial pursuits was extensively embarked, particularly in the established lines. Necessity arising from a general indisposition to give credit has compelled sales; hence the present decline. This will, however, after a short period, right itself, and returning confidence will nowhere be more quickly demonstrated than in the Share Market. The market does not close quite so heavily as at the beginning of the week. The following prices of the Stocks last dealt in will best show its present state:—Buckingham Palace, 3½ dis.; Caledonian, 35½; Eastern Counties, 15½; Ditto, York Extension, 7½; Ditto, Quarters, 12½; East Lancashire, New, 8½; East Lincolnshire, 12; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 45; Ditto, Quarter Shares, 11½; Great Northern, 4½; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 20½; Great North of England, 22½; Great Western, 94; Ditto, Half Shares, 55½; Ditto, Quarter Shares, 15½; Ditto, New, £17, 7½; Lancashire and Carlisle, 54; Lancashire and Yorkshire, Third, (Reg.), 6 dis.; Ditto (West Riding Union), 31 dis.; Leeds and Bradford, 90; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 41½; London and Greenwich, 8½; Do., 1st preference, 19; London and North Western, 145½; London and South Western, £41 6s. 8d.; 40; Midland, 107; Do £40 Shares, £40½; Do £30 Shares, 7; Do Birmingham and Derby, 80; Midland Consolidated Bristol and Birmingham, 6 per cent., 120; Norfolk, 75; North British, 24; Ditto, Half Shares, 10½; Ditto, Quarters, 3½; Ditto, Thirds, 1½; North Staffordshire, 6½; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 19½; Reading, Guildford, and Reigate, 7½; Royston and Hitchin, 1; Shrewsbury and Birmingham, 2½; South Staffordshire, 2; Ditto, No. 4, 5½; Boulogne and Amiens, 14½; Namur and Liege, 5; Northern of France, 12; Orleans and Bordeaux, 5½; Paris and Lyons, 5½; Paris and Strasbourg, 4½; Sambré and Meuse, 7; Tours and Nantes, 3½.

THE MARKETS.

CORN-EXCHANGE.—Coastwise, as well as by land carriage and sample, the arrivals of English wheat have been on a fair average scale, but greatly out of season. The quantities have been small, and an advance in the quotations of fully ripe foreign wheat, and the value of the middling and inferior kinds has been well supported. There has been more business doing in foreign wheat, but we can notice no improvement in prices. Barley moved off slowly, at, in some instances, a decline of 1s. per quarter. For malt the inquiry has been firm, at late rates. The best sorts have sold freely—other parcels slowly—unwatered figures. Both beans and peas must be quite low for the time lower. Indian corn and meal are quite as dear. Flour has supported late rates.

English.—Wheat, Essex and Kent, red, 48s to 55s; ditto white, 52s to 60s; Norfolk and Lincoln, red, 45s to 52s; ditto white, 48s to 54s; rye, 31s to 34s; grinding barley, 25s to 30s; di-milling, 24s to 30s; malted ditto, 31s to 33s; Lincoln and Norfolk malt, 57s to 59s; brown do., 54s to 57s; Kingston and Ware, 59s to 60s; Chevalier, 61s to 62s; Yorkshire and Lincolnshire white, 19s to 22s; red beans, 30s, 35s to 38s; ditto old, 40s to 44s; grey peas, 38s to 42s; mangel, 36s to 42s; white, 40s to 43s; boliers, 45s to 48s, per quarter. Town-made flour, 43s to 48s; Barilla, 37s to 41s; Stockton and Yorkshire, 37s to 41s per 280lbs. Foreign.—Deniz red wheat, —s to —s½; white, —s to —s½; barley, —s to —s½; oats, —s to —s½; peas, —s to —s½ per quarter. Flour, American, 25s to 27s per barrel; Baltic, —s to —s½ per barrel.

The Seed Market.—For all kinds of seeds the market continues in a very inactive state, and, in some instances, our quotations are almost nominal.

Lined, English, sowing, 60s to 63s; Baltic, crushing, 48s to 50s; Mediterranean and Odessa, 47s to 50s. Homestead, 50s to 52s per quarter. Corn, 18s to 21s per cwt. Barley, 7s to 9s. Mustard seed, 40s to 42s; white, 42s to 44s; black, 42s to 44s. Irish butter is a slow sale. English butter, 42s to 44s; Waterford and Dublin, 82s to 90s; Belfast, 87s to 90s; and Sligo, 81s to 85s per cwt. On board, next to nothing is doing. English butter is doing, at 100s to 105s for the first; 94s to 98s for middling; 100s to 101s for fine Devon, and 10s to 14s per dozen lbs. The stock of bacon being on the increase, that article is buoyant, and selling late rates. Prime Waterford, landed, 63s to 65s; heavy, 62s to 64s; and heavy, 62s to 64s. In other articles we have no change to notice.

Imperial Weekly Average.—Wheat, 52s 10d; barley, 30s 7d; oats, 21s 7d; rye, 31s 4d; peas, 41s 6d; beans, 41s 6d; peas, 41s 6d.

The Sea Weekly Average.—Wheat, 52s 10d; barley, 31s 3d; oats, 22s 7d; rye, 32s 3d; beans, 41s 6d; peas, 41s 6d.

For further news business is doing in this market; but, in prices, we have no improvement to notice. The deliveries are by no means large.

Rice.—Very few sales have taken place this week; yet prices are pretty generally supported. Provisions.—For Dutch butter the demand is steady, at fully last week's prices. Fine Freshland is selling at 10s to 10½. Other fine qualities, 9s to 10½; and inferior and surplus, 7s to 8s per cwt. The stocks on hand are very small. Irish butter is a slow sale. English butter, 42s to 44s; Waterford and Dublin, 82s to 90s; Belfast, 87s to 90s; and Sligo, 81s to 85s per cwt. On board, next to nothing is doing. English butter is doing, at 100s to 105s for the first; 94s to 98s for middling; 100s to 101s for fine Devon, and 10s to 14s per dozen lbs. The stock of bacon being on the increase, that article is buoyant, and selling late rates. Prime Waterford, landed, 63s to 65s; heavy, 62s to 64s; and heavy, 62s to 64s. In other articles we have no change to notice.

Tallow.—P.Y.C. on the spot, is quiet, at 45s to 46s 6d, for small parcels. For delivery, during the first three months of next year, the price is 45s per cwt.

Spirits.—Jamaica rum—the supply of which is small—moves off steadily at full prices, or from 36s to 44s per gallon. East India is dull, at 16s to 18s 6d, proof. Brandy is quite dear.

Hay and Straw.—Meadow hay, 22 10s to 23s 12d; clover ditto, 22s to 24s 11s; and straw, 14s to 16s 10s per load.

Coals.—Avalar, 17s; Davison's West Hartley, 18s 6d, New Taffield, 16s; West Wylam, 17s 8d; Haswell, 21s 9d; Lambton, 21s 9d; and Stewart's, 22s per ton.

Potatoes.—The best parcels are still selling at from 130s to 140s per ton. The secondary sorts are quite as dear.

Smoked Beef.—Prime beef has commanded a free sale, at advanced currencies. In other kinds of meat a steady business has been transacted, at full prices.

Beef, from 3s 6d to 5s 11d; mutton, 3s 8d to 5s 4d; veal, 3s 8d to 4s 10d; and pork 2s 10d to 3s 2d per 8lbs, or sink the collar.

Newspapers and London Mail.—These markets, though well supplied, are somewhat brisk, on the following terms:—Morning Post, 3s 6d to 5s 10d; mutton, 3s 8d to 4s 8d; veal, 3s 8d to 4s 8d; and pork, 3s 8d to 4s 2d per 8lbs, by the carcass.

ROBERT HENKETT.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, DEC. 17.

WAR OFFICE, DEC. 11.

2nd Life Guards: Lieut W A Tollemache to be Captain, vice Boyce; Cornet and Sub-Lieut W H Grenville to be Lieutenant, vice Tollemache; G M Hillier to be Cornet and Sub-Lieutenant, vice Grenville.

1st Foot: Brev Major H P Raymond to be Major, vice Bennett; Lieut J E Sharp to be Captain, vice Raymond; Ensign E H Henry to be Lieutenant, vice Sharp; C J Phillips to be Ensign, vice Henry; 4th: Surgeon T G Loken, M.D., to be Surgeon, vice Dartnell. 10th: Capt G F Moore to be Captain, vice Lorne. 18th: Major F W Dillon to be Lieutenant-Colonel, vice Cooper; Brev Major F Wignall to be Major, vice Dillon; Lieut J J Wood to be Captain, vice Wignall; Ensign E Jones to be Lieutenant, vice Wood; Ensign G A Hillier to be Ensign, vice Jones. 22nd: Lieut F G Moore to be Lieutenant, vice Uscher. 25th: Capt W H Newnham to be Ensign, vice Heath. 28th: Capt J T Gorle to be Captain, vice Moore; Lieut J T Usher to be Lieutenant, vice Moore. 4th: Cadet J G M Stride to be Ensign, vice Elliott. 53d: Surgeon N Dartnell to be Surgeon, vice Loken. 75th: G A Williams to be Assistant-Surgeon, vice Wallace. 84th: Lieut J W Monk to be Adjutant, vice Boymour. 86th: Lieut C F Healey to be Paymaster, vice Ormond; Lieut O Fitzgerald to be Lieutenant, vice Healey. 93d: Ensign R E Weston to be Lieutenant, vice M'Donald; J M Bannatyne to be Ensign, vice Weston. 9th: Ensign J Buchanan to be Lieutenant, vice Cardow; Ensign N B Walton to be Lieutenant, vice H W B Cleveland; D M Farrington to be Ensign, vice Walton; J E Whelan to be Ensign, vice Buchanan.

2nd West India Regiment: Lieut J W Glubb to be Capt, vice Campbell; Ensign A J B Child to be Lieutenant, vice Glubb; 8th: Lieut to be Ensign, vice Child; Lieut J M'Donoghue to be Adjutant, vice Harpur.

Ceylon R.R. Regiment: Second Lieut C G Grantham to be First Lieut, vice Irwin; Lieut P Taylor to be Lieut, vice Adams; Second Lieut C P Tescdale to be First Lieut, vice Taylor; J Winterbottom to be Second Lieut, vice Grantham; W H Long to be Second Lieutenant, vice Tescdale.

Cape Mounted Riflemen: Lieut W H Emerson to be Lieutenant, vice Fitzgerald.

HOSPITAL STAFF.—F A Kingdom, M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon to the Forces.

ERRATUM in the Gazette of Oct 14, 1847.

44th Foot: For Lieut W Evans to be Captain, vice Robinson; read, Lieut W H Dodgins to be Captain, vice Robinson; and Lieut W Evans to be Captain, vice Dodgins.

OFFICE OF ORDNANCE, DEC. 16.

Royal Regiment of Artillery: Major-General T J Forbes to be Colonel-Commandant, vice Lieutenant-General Sir Joseph Cameron, K.C.B.

ADMIRALTY, DEC. 14.

Corps of Royal Marines: J Seymour to be Second Lieutenant; A J Stuart to be Second Lieutenant.

DEC. 17.—The following promotions have this day taken place, consequent upon the death of Vice Admiral Peter Kinnaird, the 16th instant:—

Vice Admiral of the Blue John Wright to be Vice Admiral of the White.

Rear Admiral of the Red Sir Charles Richardson, K.C.B., to be Vice Admiral of the Blue.

Rear Admiral of the White Charles James Johnston, to be Rear Admiral of the Red.

Rear Admiral of the Blue Thomas Searle, C.B., to be Rear Admiral of the White.

Captain Edward Harvey to be Rear Admiral of the Blue.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

W THACKER, Birmingham, victualler.

BANKRUPTS.

J ROBINSON, Ipswich, draper. T RAYMOND, Bishop's-road, Paddington, builder. W LAKE, Fleet-street, printer. J MORRISON, Chesapeake, tailor. W BOYLS, Lissen-grove, St. Mary-bow, licensed victualler. F PIKE, St. Margaret's-hill, Southwark, tallow-chandler. H E FIELD, Mark-lane, City, oiling-house-keeper. H J HAMMOND, Threadneedle-street, and Greek-street, Sch. architect and jewel-ass-inker. J JONES, Newgate-street, Grocer, iron, and action, linendraper. G WOODMAN, George's-place, Water-lane, Bristol, beer-shop-keeper and cow-keeper. G and J RIGBY, Liverpool, coal-merchants. J N PEARCE, Rendshaw-street, Liverpool, stationer. R ROBERTS, Denbigh, dealer. G BU LLE, Liverpool, ship-broker. E ALANSON, Liverpool, vice-merchant. H W LAKE, Liverpool, commission-merchant. A H WATF, Crosby-hall Chambers, Liverpool, street, iron-merchant. T HOLMES, Denbigh, stationer, blacksmith, and slott. Liverpool, iron-merchant. BRIGGS, Castleton-mills, Rochdale, latter. J NORRIS, Manchester, woolen-merchant. G DEWENS, Amhurst, Devonshire, butter-merchant. A SINGER, Trowbridge, Wilshire, grocer. J RICKARDS, Merthyr Tydyl, Glamorganshire, woolen-draper. R NEWMAN, Bristol, grocer. S BERY, Bristol, warehouseman. J DAVISON, Leeds, coach-builder. J LEEDHAM, Halifax, Yorkshire, innkeeper.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

J ROGERS, Glasgow, ironmonger. G ROBERTS, Anderson, Glasgow, ironmonger. J F MONTGOMERY, Edinburgh, advocate. W MURRAY and CO., Glasgow, tailors. J MARCH, jun., Haddington, brewer. G GREEN, Glasgow, underwriter. P THOMAS, Dundee, merchant. T NICOL, Alloa, draper. C B MEIKARD and CO., Edinburgh, hat-manufacturers. J F THESSE and CO., Edinburgh, tea-dealers. R FORBES and CO., Glasgow, warehousemen. G BOLDY, Edinburgh, bonnet-makers. W B S CAMBELL, Edinburgh, writer to the signet. J MURRAY and CO., Glasgow, stationers. RICHARDSON and PRINGLE, Maxwell-town, Torquay, nurserymen.

TUESDAY, DEC. 21.

LORD GREAT CHAMBERLAIN'S OFFICE, DEC. 20.

Notice is hereby given, that the usual weekly distribution of tickets from this office will be discontinued during the recess of Parliament, it being necessary to close the House of Lords during that time.

WHITEHALL, DEC. 18.

The Queen has been pleased to direct letters patent to be passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, constituting and appointing the Right Honourable George Earl of Auckland, C.B.; Rear-Admiral James Whitely Deane Dundas; Captain Maurice Frederick Fitzhardinge Berkeley; Captain Lord John Hay, G.C.B.; the Honourable Sir George Grey, Bart.; and Alexander Leitch, Esq., to be the Lords of the Admiralty, her Majesty's Commissioners for the affairs of the High Admiralty of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the dominions, islands, and territories thereto belonging.

The Queen has been pleased to nominate, constitute, and appoint Viscount Sandon to be one of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, in the room of Lord Ashley, resigned.

The Queen has been pleased to direct letters patent to be passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, constituting and appointing William Henry Innes, Esq., one of her Majesty's Counsel learned in the Law, to be one of the Masters in Ordinary of the High Court of Chancery, in the room of Samuel Duckworth, Esq., deceased.

DEC. 21.—The Lord Chancellor has appointed Charles John Newbery, of Newport and Kyde, in the Isle of Wight, Gent.; Richard Arthur Duff, of the town and county of the town of Nottingham, Gent.; and Henry Gwynne, of Market Drayton, in the county of Salop, Gent., to be Masters Extraordinary in the High Court of Chancery.

DOWNING-STREET, DEC. 21.

The Queen has been pleased to appoint Charles Henry Darling, Esq., to be Lieutenant-Governor of the Island of St. Lucia.

Her Majesty has also been pleased to appoint Robert Russell, Esq., to be Registrar of the Court of Chancery and Clerk of the Patents for the Island of Jamaica, Esq., to be Coroner for the Island of Antigua.

Her Majesty has also been pleased to appoint Fairfield Mills, Esq., to be her Majesty's Solicitor-General for the Island of Nevis.

Her Majesty has also been pleased to appoint James Coleman Fitzpatrick, Esq., to be Assessor or Assistant to the Native and Chiefs within the counties adjacent to her Majesty's forts and settlements on the Gold Coast.

Her Majesty has also been pleased to appoint William Macartney, Esq., to be Superintendent of Police at Colombo, in the Island of Ceylon.

Her Majesty has further been pleased to appoint Edward Bage, Esq., to be Assistant Surveyor and Engineer, and Robert Armstrong, Esq., to be Police Magistrate, for the colony of Sierra Leone.

FOREIGN OFFICE, DEC. 21.

The Queen has been pleased to approve of Mr. Christopher Hempstead, as Consul at Buzze in Honduras, for the United States of America.

The Queen has also been pleased to approve of Mr. John Conrad Stiffell, as Consul in London, and of Mr. Joseph Maudsley, as Consul at Liverpool, for the Hospital of Hayti.

CHANCERY OFFICE, DEC. 20.

MEMBERS RETURNED TO SERVE IN THIS PRESENT PARLIAMENT.

Borough of Southport.—James Ketshaw, of Victoria Park, in the County of Lancaster, Esq., in the room of Richard Cobden, Esq., who being chosen a Knight for the West Riding of the County of York, and also one of the Burgesses for the said Borough, has made his election to sit for the said West Riding.

Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme.—Samuel Christy, of Poynton Hall, in the County of Cheshire, Esq.

Borough of Tamworth.—John Townshend, of Ball's Park, in the County of Hereford, Captain R.N., in the room of the late John William Yates Esq., who has accepted the office of steward of her Majesty's Chiltern Hundreds.

County of Lancaster (northern division).—Alexander Henry, of Woodlands, in the said County of Lancaster, Esq., in the room of the late Charles Pelham Villiers, who being chosen one of the Burgesses for the Borough of Wolverhampton, and also one of the Knights for the said Northern Division, has made his election to sit for the said Borough of Wolverhampton.

DECLARATIONS OF SOLVENCY.

H TURNER, Coventry-street, Piccadilly, fishmonger. J BROUGH, Macclesfield, cabinet-maker.

P I N E A R T S .



"THE ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS."—FROM THE PICTURE BY REMBRANDT, IN THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

THE ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS.

PAINTED BY REMBRANDT.

We have engraved, as illustrative of the Season, one of the masterpieces of Rembrandt, in our National Gallery. The composition of the Picture is thus described in the enlarged, authorised edition of the Catalogue of the Collection, just published.

The scene is a dark stable, or cattle-shed; the illumination of the picture proceeding, almost entirely, as in the "Notte" of Correggio, from the Infant Saviour. The effect of this supernatural light is much enhanced by the comparative faintness of the rays from the lantern in the hands of one of the shepherds, and the principal group is forcibly relieved by the deep shadow of the kneeling figure in the foreground; a second group is just entering the shed on the right; the remotest figure bearing another lantern.

The picture is painted on canvass, 2ft. 1in. h. by 1ft. 10in. w. It is marked "Rembrandt, f. 1646;" it was formerly in the Angerstein collection, with which it was purchased by Parliament for the nation; and thus became a portion of the nucleus of "the National Gallery."

Fuseli thus eloquently describes the characteristics of Rembrandt's style. "He was a genius of the first class, in whatever relates not to form. In spite of most portentous deformity, and without considering the spell of his chiaroscuro, such were his powers of nature, such the grandeur, pathos, or simplicity of his composition, from the most elevated or extensive arrangement to the meanest or most homely, that the best cultivated eye, the purest sensibility, and the most refined taste, dwell on them equally entranced."

We could add many a poetic inspiration, relating the sublime event of this picture; the following is by an eloquent living poet:—

Thou knowest, Merciful!
That knowest all things, and dost ever turn
Thine eye of pity on our guilty nature;
For thou wert born of woman: thou didst come,
Oh holdest! to this world of sin and gloom,

Not in thy dread omnipotent array
And not by thunders strowed
Was thy tempestuous road;
Nor indignation burnt before thee on thy way.
But thee, a soft and naked child,
Thy mother undefiled
In the rude manger laid to rest
From off her virgin breast.

The heavens were not commanded to prepare
A gorgeous canopy of golden air;
Nor stooped their lamps th' enthroned fires on high
A single silent star
Came wandering from afar,
Gliding unchecked and calm along the liquid sky;
The Eastern sages leading on,
As at a kingly throne,
To lay their gold and odours sweet,
Before thy infant feet.

The earth and ocean were not hushed to hear
Bright harmony from every starry sphere;
Nor at Thy presence brake the voice of song
From all the cherub choirs,
And seraphs' burning lyres
Poured through the host of heaven the charmed clouds along.
One angel-troop the strain began,
Of all the race of man
By simple shepherds heard alone,
That soft Hosanna's tone.—MILMAN.

On the recent occasion of the seventh anniversary of the translation of the ashes of the Emperor Napoleon, the nave and choir of the Church of the Invalides were filled with old officers and functionaries of the Empire, wearing the Imperial uniform. The ex-King Jerome, his son, and the Princess Mathilde de Demidoff, his daughter, were seated in a pew on the right. A great number of the invalids and the staff of the establishment were also present. After the mass the ex-King Jerome and his children remained some time behind in prayer.

Post-office Notice.—The Brazilian Post-office having consented to withdraw the charge which it had imposed on newspapers from the United Kingdom deli-

vered in Brazil, on and after the 1st of January next, no charge will be made in the United Kingdom on British newspapers posted in accordance with the usual restrictions, addressed to Brazil, when conveyed by packet; and, in like manner, Brazilian newspapers addressed to the United Kingdom, and brought to this country by packet, will be delivered free from postage.

MONTHLY MAILS.—Notices were issued on Monday, at the General Post Office, announcing that an arrangement has been made for despatching one of her Majesty's ships, on the first of every month, to the western coast of Africa, calling at Madeira and Sierra Leone; and that mails to be conveyed by such vessels will in future be made up on the evening of the last day of the month; or, when that day falls on a Sunday, on the previous evening. All letters and newspapers for Sierra Leone, not directed to be forwarded by any other vessel, will be despatched by these mails. Letters and newspapers for Madeira or for any part of the western coast of Africa, except Sierra Leone, intended to be sent by these vessels, must be specially addressed by "Her Majesty's ship ———." The name of the vessel will be announced in the packet list about the 26th of every month. Mails will be made up for Madeira, the Cape of Good Hope, Sydney, and New Zealand, to be conveyed by her Majesty's steamer *Acheron*. The postage on letters to Madeira will be 1s. 10d. per half-ounce, and so on; newspapers, 2d. each, which must be prepaid. Letters to the Cape of Good Hope, &c., 1s. per half-ounce. No charge for newspapers. Both must be specially addressed "by her Majesty's steamer *Acheron*."

TIDAL PHENOMENON.—During the recent gale, a phenomenon, which has been before noticed with respect to the river Parrott, at Bridgewater, occurred there in the return of the tide. About four o'clock on Sunday morning, the wind blowing a strong gale from the W.S.W., and after the tide had ebbed for about three feet, leaving the vessels in the river aground, a tremendous roaring of the sea was heard. All doubt was soon removed by the approach of the bore-head, a large wave nearly eight feet high bearing up, carrying everything before it, and nearly swamping all the laden vessels in the river, many of which were seriously damaged. The storm lasted a quarter of an hour.

THE LATE FIRE AT SEA.—Mr. G. Howland, the master of the ship *Robert G. Shaw*, which drifted, on fire, lately upon the south coast of England, writes from Havre that the vessel, which was from Charleston, with a cargo of cotton and rice, was struck by lightning, passing down the fore-castle, and setting the cotton on fire in the ship's hold, on the 6th instant, about 45 miles north of Ushant, the ship lying to under a close reefed maintopsail at the time. The crew used every exertion to keep the fire down, and made all sail the ship could carry, in order to get her into some port on the English coast before the fire broke out, but they found that impossible, and were obliged to leave the ship in the long boat,

MUSIC.

DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

"THE MAID OF HONOUR," Opera in Three Acts. Music by BALFE; Libretto by FITZBALL.

On Monday night, this work was produced with signal success. The house was crowded in every part; amongst the auditory were the most distinguished amateurs and professors. There was much to provoke curiosity—a new opera by Balfé must always be a matter of interest, and there was not only Mr. Reeves' appearance in an original character, but there were three *débütantes* in the cast, namely, Miss Birch, Miss Miran, and Mrs. Weiss. Mr. Balfé was much cheered on taking his place in the orchestra. At the end of the first act, Mr. Reeves, Miss Birch, and Miss Miran were called for; at the termination of the opera there were ovations for the composer, principal singers, and even for M. Jullien. The voice of journalism has generally been strongly in favour of "The Maid of Honour," and yet with all these demonstrations, we must take leave to doubt whether the opera can be permanently attractive, and whether it will add to Mr. Balfé's fame. Our reasons for this conclusion must be gathered from a rapid analysis of the musical and dramatic situations. The libretto has been taken from the ballet of "Lady Henriette," originally produced at the Parisian Académie de Musique, and transferred to Drury-Lane boards, during Mr. Bunn's management.

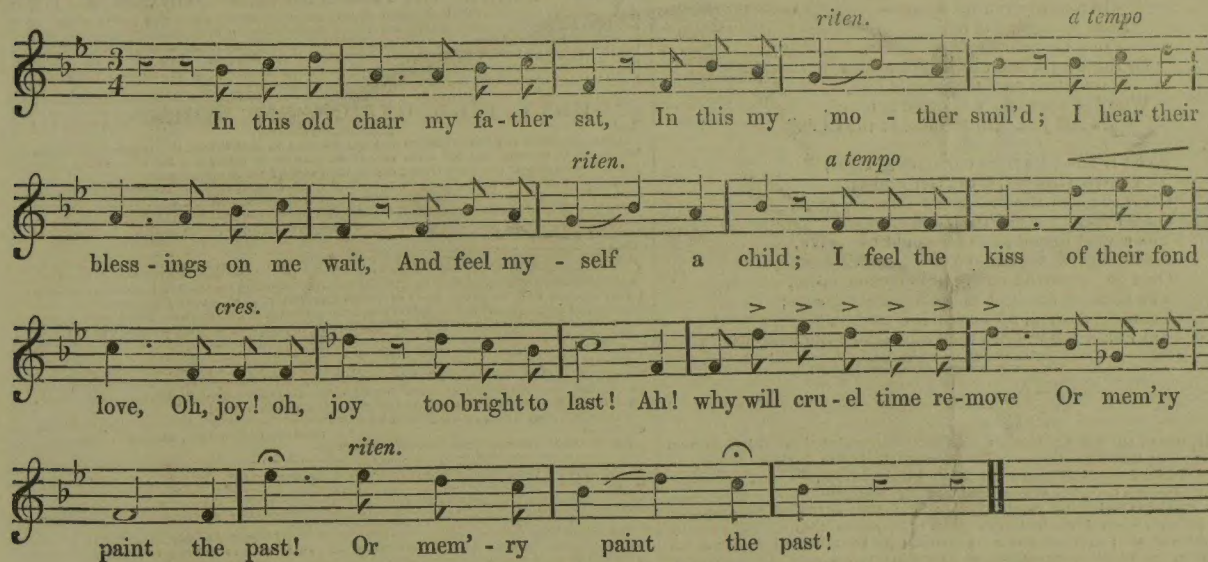
We do not think the subject well adapted for "a grand opera." The incidents might make a two-act comic opera; but, in order to spin them out to the required proportions, the dramatic writer has introduced scenes which only impede the progress of the action, interrupt the story, disturb the interest, and render the whole tiresome and dull. The composer's inspiration seems to have been infected by the monotonous plot; for in his overture he has taken the themes of a mere episode in the drama—the Masque. It is the most instrumental piece we have heard from Balfé—without plan, design, or coherence—and only remarkable for a very common-place Casino polka motif. The epoch of the libretto is fixed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth (in the ballet it is under Queen Anne's rule). The first scene is in the state apartments, and a three-part madrigal is sung of the Elizabethan era, by the ladies of the choir. This madrigal is accompanied by the full orchestra; but we do not perceive any reason why the orthodox mode of executing these quaint compositions should not have been employed, namely, the singers with the parts in their hands, sitting around tables, and executing them without the aid of the band. The remainder of this scene is taken up with a concerted piece, in which *Sir Tristram* (the Queen's Chamberlain), Mr. Weiss, tries to dissuade *Lady Henriette* (Miss Birch) and *Alison* (Miss Miran) from their purpose to visit a Statute Fair, disguised as servant girls. Scene the second is Greenwich Fair, but there was nothing particular in the descriptive music except its noise and the vulgarity of the dances. A little bit of a two-part song, "We come when you ring the bell," sung by Misses Birch and Miran, was an oasis in the desert. In the third scene is the interior of the house of *Lyonnell* (Mr. Reeves), a wealthy Kentish yeoman, who, with *Walter* (Mr. Whitworth), his friend, has hired the two maids of honour, as servants. We now arrive at the publisher's region—the ballad order of music. Mr. Reeves had the first start in "Behold the happy home," with the somewhat exploded sentiment, that truth can only prevail in the cottage, and not at all in the courtly domicile, where the "carpet of silk" and "the tapestry of gold" are seen. Mr. Reeves sang it with excellent expression, and it was encored; it will remind the hearer of an Irish melody, and as Barrett played a delicious oboe accompaniment, the effect was great. Miss Birch had the next ballad, "It was the Red-cross Knight," and this was called for a second time, but the eyes had a battle with the notes to carry the day. Had the vocalist paid as much attention to the words, as she did to the notes, greater unanimity might have prevailed. Considering the important part this elegant melody is made to play throughout the opera, it ought to have been given with more feeling. The yeomen, as may be presumed, fall in love with the supposed servants, who, however, make their

escape with the aid of *Tristram*, when the masters have retired to rest. And here is the most poetical and picturesque situation in the entire production:—*Lyonnell*, deeply enamoured of *Henriette*, is seen sleeping uneasy and feverish in his chair—the air that she has sung floating in the memory, and coming out in detached intervals; the voices of *Henriette*, *Alison*, and *Tristram*, subdued and fearful, are heard like gliding spirits in the background, as they make their escape; whilst the orchestration, with a lovely effect of the stringed instruments muted, keep up an undercurrent highly descriptive of the action. This finale is one of Balfé's happiest notions.

Are we never to be relieved from the eternal Chorus of Hunters, introduced in operas? It will not be in the first scene of the second act of "The Maid of Honour," and, as usual, a drinking-song is appended. The cavatina, "Prims the cup," is written distressingly high for Mr. Whitworth, whose intonation was sadly at fault. There is a gentlemanlike style about the singer's deportment, which causes regret that his vocal powers are so deficient. The entrance of *Queen Elizabeth*, on a real white horse, afforded Mrs. Weiss, in a cavatina, "Far from gilded state away," to display a voice of great compass. Her high notes were well sustained, but we do not think the passages were telling, in proportion to their difficulties. A charming air, "Sweet rose, I would that near this heart," sung by Miss Birch, was distinguished by a bravura flight, totally out of place. The duo, in which *Lyonnell* recognises *Lady Henriette*, as his quondam servant—"Tis she—bright spirits hover round"—is charmingly conceived. The solo, "O cruel beauty," is an impassioned cantabile, exquisitely rendered by Reeves. This duo is one of the vocal gems of the opera. The saving of the *Queen's* life by *Lyonnell*—the knight of the yeoman by the grateful Monarch—and the unmasking of the maids of honour, at his request, in order to identify his lady-love—are embodied in a concerted piece, in a set, and in the finale. Herein Balfé develops divers Auberish themes, and Verdi crescendoes, but the ensemble is not well constructed, and the effect is flat. This was sensibly felt at the fall of the curtain.

The third act opens in the Throne-room. There is a comic scena for Weiss, "Now prepare all," descriptive of managerial troubles in getting up the grand Masque. This is written in imitation of the pure Italian buffo school, and it was executed with much spirit, but little humour, by Weiss. In Lablache's hands, such a scena would be a mine of comicality. The Masque is a copy from Glück. The trombone passages served to show of Cioffi's colossal power. The air of *Orpheus*, "Dulcet Music," sung by Miss Miran, was encored; but, owing to the mechanist's prompt display of the lost *Eurydice*, it was not repeated. The *débütante* displayed a mellow-toned contralto of delightful quality: her style is unfinished, as was perceived in the shake, which she began well, but did not terminate so fortunately. The duo, "I hear thy voice, oh! Orpheus," between Miss Birch and Miss Miran, is full of tenderness. At this stage of the story, nothing could be worse managed, dramatically and musically. *Lyonnell*, who is her Majesty's favourite, and has been raised to honour and distinction, stands by her side during the Masque, and in *Eurydice* recognises his lost lady-love. Distracted, he rushes forward and throws himself at her feet, and is about to destroy himself in presence of the entire Court. Here was an opportunity, of course, for a *morceau d'ensemble*, to describe the conflicting emotions of all present. How has it been rendered? Miss Birch comes down to the stage lamps with Mr. Reeves—the courtiers, soldiers, attendants, &c. "retire to a respectful distance" (*sic in libretto*); her Majesty in a *Lady Aylesbury* coiffure, and not in the golden locks sung by the Elizabethan poets, condescendingly stands in the centre of the Maids of Honour, and during this torpid state of hundreds of spectators, Miss Birch warbles a dismal ditty, calling upon *Lyonnell* not to tell tales; but as he is the crack tenor, he must not be deprived of his mad scene, so he does try again to kill himself, and is dragged off, to the dismay of Miss Birch, and to the wonder of Mrs. Weiss, who, after looking at each other for a moment, walked off also, to the evident amusement of the whole house at this droll climax. At this period of the opera, it was in a certainly critical state; but, thanks to the talents of Reeves, in the last scene, the denouement was saved from a catastrophe. The interior of *Lyonnell's* house is again visible, and the lunatic lover is brought in by *Walter*, her Majesty having resolved to try the recovery of his reason, by making the maids of honour resume the costume of the servants, as in the first scene. Reeves gave a ballad, "In this old chair my father sat," with a pathos that brought tears into many eyes, and it was fervently encored. It is in these appeals to the domestic feelings that Balfé's genius as a ballad writer reigns supreme.

We subjoin the subject in notation, and the words. The pianoforte accompaniment to this song, and the whole of the words, are published by Chappell, in Bond-street.



And here, alas! when they were gone
In beauty's own array,
A pitying angel on me shone,
To cheer each grief away;
But oh! it was delusive love,
Too sweet—too pure to last.
Oh! if such dream time must remove,
Mem'ry, why paint the past?

The restoration of *Lyonnell's* senses is accomplished by *Lady Henriette*, who sings the melody which first captivated the yeoman. An adagio that he sings at the conclusion, "Better were it," was delivered with a dramatic intensity that took the house by storm. The finale rondo, "Tell, oh, my heart," is a florid display of vocalisation for Miss Birch, with whose cadenzas and disjointed divisions we were not altogether gratified, although, on the whole, she rattled through the bravura bravely.

We never listened to any new production by Mr. Balfé which, in the ensemble, pleased us less than "The Maid of Honour." It is far inferior to his "Bondman." There is a great straining for effect, and an over-elaboration—faults not perceptible in Balfé's former style. His gift is spontaneity and melodious impulse; the moment he tries to be learned, he is lost in a labyrinth of confused effects. He would have done well, as he was the Conductor, to have restored the original arrangement of the orchestra, the brass of which is quite stunning for the audience, whilst the stringed instruments can only be heard to perfection on the stage. No expense seems to have been spared in the *mise en scène*; but, in the stage business, there were indications of great hurry, and the want of proper rehearsals. With such masses, more effective grouping ought to have been witnessed.

The success of the opera may be ascribed to the admirable singing of the tenor; and this without any disparagement of the talent of the three *débütantes*, for the best music and the best dramatic situations are allotted to *Lyonnell*. *Lady Henriette* might be made more interesting than it was by Miss Birch, whose frigidity is very provoking, with her superb organ and fine execution—but what is a singer without dramatic sensibility? Miss Miran, in whom we recognised Miss Wilmsbury, of the Royal Academy of Music, and who is, we understand, a sister of Miss Laura Addison, is a very promising actress, as well as singer. Mrs. Weiss, who was known as Miss Burrett, of the Royal Academy, has a magnificent voice. Here were three singers, all possessing voices of delicious quality, and yet, not one of them, in the true sense of the word, can be styled a real artist. Whence this deficiency arises we may, at some future time, endeavour to explain; but, the fact is too remarkable not to be signalled here.

SURREY THEATRE.

Miss Poole appeared on Tuesday night in an English adaptation, by Mr. Fitzball, of Donizetti's "Figlia del Reggimento," with signal success. A more charming piece of acting than Miss Poole's *Maria* was never witnessed on any stage; and if she did not rival Middle, Lind, in the vocal portion, we question whether any other English singer could have approached Miss Poole, in the charm of her voice, and in the purity and correctness of her intonation. She was received from first to last with the greatest tokens of approval and was rapturous as those of an excitable Italian *naïveté*, playing the drum to perfection; and her march off the stage, at the head of the regiment, was most spiritedly done. There was not the slightest tinge of coarseness in her assumption of the *Vivandière*. In the singing lesson, and in the trio, in which the *Sergeant* and *Maria* rapturously engaged Marchioness off the stage, the sensation created by Miss Poole was prodigious. She gave the finale—the pretty Tyrolean melody which runs through the opera—with power and brilliancy. She was encored three times, and called before the curtain. The *Sergeant* *Sulpizio* was enacted and sung by Mr. Phillips with considerable humour; and Mrs. Daly's clever assumption of the proud *Marchioness* contri-

buted to the effect of the ensemble. Mr. Tully conducted the orchestra with praiseworthy skill. "The Daughter of the Regiment," with the vivacity and singing of Miss Poole, will no doubt be a fortunate hit for Mr. Bunn, who has evidently taken pains in the mounting of this lively opera.

JENNY LIND AT HOME.—This delightful songstress creates quite as great a *furor* in her own native city of Stockholm (if not greater) as she has in foreign lands. On the 2d instant, she performed at the Royal Opera, Stockholm, and although tickets were to have been sold at the theatre office, from ten o'clock, on the preceding afternoon, at about four, the Adolphus place, where the Opera stands, was already nearly crowded. At eleven the multitude was such that the police interfered, and made the people form *en queue*, but a little after midnight a compact mass of persons made an irruption from the neighbouring streets, rushed on the *queue*, broke it, and actually besieged the theatre. Nevertheless, the first crowd returned, attacked their aggressors, and in a few minutes a desperate fist and foot combat followed. Several persons were severely bruised on the occasion. Detachments of infantry at length, with great trouble, succeeded in clearing the Adolphus place, and only 2000 persons, or twice the number the theatre could hold, were suffered to approach its office. In the course of the day tickets were paid for as high as fifty times what they had cost at the office. Some of those for the amphitheatre first places were sold at 100 bank rix dollars, or £22. The reception given to Jenny within the theatre was most enthusiastic; every known "ovation" was conferred on her, including that of which Italy has reserved to herself the privilege—the flying of pigeons in the house. Much of this enthusiasm was no doubt created by the admiration felt at her having on the previous evening published in the journals a note stating that, in order to give her native country a *souvenir* that might last beyond her existence as an artist, she had determined on devoting to the establishment of a school for young persons of both sexes, born with happy dispositions, in which they should gratuitously be taught music and the dramatic art, the whole of the profits of an engagement which she has just concluded with the Royal Opera, and which stipulates that she should sing once a week in December, January, and February, on condition of half of the whole receipts, on every night of her appearance, being given to her, and of a half being added to the prices of places.

LIBERTY OF THE PRESS IN FRANCE.—During the last seventeen years no less than 1129 prosecutions have been directed against the journals in the name of King Louis Philippe, who inaugurated his accession to the throne by a formal promise that no prosecution should be in future instituted against the press. During that period 57 journals have been obliged to suspend their publication in consequence of the severity of the penalties. The writers were sentenced to 3141 years and eight months' imprisonment, and the journals to 7,110,500*l.* fine.

FREE CONVICTS FOR NEW SOUTH WALES.—The *Elphinstone*, hired barque, dropped down the river on Monday to moorings opposite the Royal Arsenal, to receive on board convicts from the *Warrior* and *Justitia* convict hulks at Woolwich, who have preferred proceeding to New South Wales, where they will, on landing, obtain free tickets, with the opportunity of following any plan they may choose to adopt in that country for an honest subsistence, on condition that they do not return to this country again. Numbers of the convicts have volunteered. Two other vessels have been hired to convey convicts to the same destination, and are at present taking in stores at Deptford. A new series of regulations is to be adopted relative to the convicts who will remain in this country, and the alteration will take place at the commencement of the new year.

THE PROFESSOR'S LADY.

BY BERTHOLD AUERBACH.

AUTHOR OF "VILLAGE TALES OF THE BLACK FOREST."

TRANSLATED BY MARY HOWITT.

(Continued from page 406.)

CHAPTER VI.

THEY GO INTO THE WIDE WORLD.

THE picture of the Madonna was finished, and was sent to the city for exhibition. Reinhard was annoyed at receiving the news that the Sub-Librarian had unwittingly betrayed who had been the model for the Madonna. An Englishman, who was at that time a resident in the capital, offered a certain sum for the picture, and Reinhard consented that he should have it on his own terms, because he did not wish to take his wife to the city, where the picture was, and also from another reason. The matter-of-fact side exists in all circumstances. Reinhard was in want of money to begin housekeeping with.

The Sub-Librarian took a house for Reinhard, and his sister put it in order for them. The Landlord of the Linden Tree was assailed with this news, in order that he might allow the marriage soon to take place. He let things take their course.

On the evening before the wedding, Lorie stood behind Bärbel and wept bitterly, because she was about to leave this faithful old servant. She complained that she should not know what to do when she got to the city; with that Bärbe said—

"I can't do it; I have promised him that I would not tell, but it is no manner of use. Do be quiet; Reinhard has been so long begging and plaguing me that I am now going with you to the city." Be cheerful, therefore; I shall stop as long with you as you will keep me."



Lorie hastened to Reinhard, and embraced him with immeasurable affection; by this means she helped to drive away the vexation which a letter he had just received from the Sub-Librarian had occasioned him. He had invited him, as his only friend, to the wedding, and the answer which he received declining it, and assigning, as a reason, that he was refused leave of absence, was at the same time full of extreme bitterness against Reinhard.

Lorie was married in her peasant's costume. When she came out of the church, she went up to her little chamber to put on her city dress. Here she remained for a long time praying, with many tears.

She rose from her knees, and called in Vroni to assist her in dressing; she did not put on any of her low silk dresses, but merely one of simple white muslin, made plain to the throat.

Every one looked with joy upon Lorie as she thus came down to them; her gait, every movement of her hand, all was as in the spirit of a sacred festivity.

The dinner was an exceedingly merry one. The musicians played many a lively tune, but the festivity had hardly reached its height, when, in a pause, the cracking of a whip was heard before the door; Reinhard and Lorie arose, and all the others did the same. Before the house stood the little carriage; all the luggage was carefully fastened on; the black horse was in the shafts, and Martin stood there with the reins in his hands.

Lorie never raised her eyes from the ground, as they crossed the court, as if there were everywhere something to detain her.

The wedding guests had gathered all about the little carriage, when up came Wendelin sobbing, and gave to Lorie a blackbird which he had caught, in a cage of his own making; Lorie, he said, must take it with her. They promised him that it should go with Bärbel, when she set off to the city.

The mother scarcely said a word to Lorie; she only kept stroking the handsome cloak which she had on, and asked, "Are you warm? Take care, for it gets cool towards evening, especially in driving."

She was assisted into the carriage, and just when Reinhard was about to get in also, the Landlord gave him a heavy blow on the shoulders, and said, "Get along with you, you villain, you bad fellow, you dog, for taking my girl away with you!"

Those were only caresses, and Lorie could not help smiling amid her tears. "Now, away with you! In Heaven's name, drive off," cried the Landlord; the musicians, who had stood looking on in silence, played a lively march, and away rolled the carriage.

"Come in, old woman," said the Landlord, putting his wife's arm within his, which was what he scarcely ever did: "come, we must now try to live contentedly alone. When first we were married we were long without children, and now our house is again without any. Come, we will have a dance, however. Musicians, strike up."

Lorie, in the meantime, was rapidly driving away. Just beyond the village gate Wendelin by the roadside, with his cage. As they drove up, he took out the bird and held it aloft towards them. Was it by his own free will, or was it accidental? The bird escaped out of his hand, and flew away. Wendelin, with the empty cage, returned home.

They rested awhile at the next town, and then drove on through the moonlight night in quiet rapture. Lorie, however, thought much about home: she would so like to have known whether they were now gone to bed, or whether they were dancing.

"Do you know the beautiful dance they played as we drove away from home?" asked Lorie from Reinhard. "To me it seems as if I still heard music."

Martin drove the young couple three days' journey. On the third evening, at the Three Kings, in Basle, he prepared to return home. Lorie felt deeply in her heart this separation from their own little carriage, from the black horse, and especially from Martin.

"Many thousand greetings to them all at home."

They now entered on the glorious scenery of the Alps. Reinhard had a willing auditor when he explained the changes and the beauties of nature, and their picturesque points of view. Lorie listened to him always with pleasure, even when she did not fully understand him. Sometimes, it is true, she would make a digression from the subject he spoke on, by remarking in what condition the potatoes were, or how entirely differently the oxen were yoked in this country to what they were at home; but, even when such observations cut in two, as it were, some enthusiastic explanation or other, he patiently went on with it afterwards.

CHAPTER VII.

BETWEEN HIGH WALLS.

How delighted was Lorie to find Bärbel already arrived at their house. They reached home in the evening, and Lorie took a survey of everything—yes, that was now her new world.

It was with an indescribable happiness that she that night arranged nearly all her marriage wealth in the closets and presses; and how much had not her mother unexpectedly added to it? The kind mother! The father, according to old custom, had not omitted to send a cradle, and Lorie was as red as fire when she was aware of this; she was soon, however, again full of joy at the well-

supplied flour chest, at the numerous jars of lard, and all other necessities for a complete housekeeping, which Bärbel had brought with her; she surveyed every pot and pan in the kitchen as now their own property. At first, Reinhard wished to put a stop to this, but afterwards he himself went with her through kitchen and chamber, and rejoiced in the happiness of his "dear little house-wife."

Late in the night the two were still sitting together on the sofa, and Reinhard was telling her how he was the only child of his parents, whom he lost while he was yet very young; how he was brought up at a school; and afterwards, having had a quarrel with his guardian, had given up study, and devoted himself to art; how he had severed every bond, and had wandered freely about in the world.

"Never," said he, in conclusion, "have I known what a domestic hearth was; my deep yearnings are now fulfilled, with a heavy sacrifice, it is true; I have placed myself in service, but I would gladly give up a part of my artist-life to have a home, a nest."

Lorle embraced him, and said, "You may well always be good and glad to be at home, you poor fellow, whom the world has so tossed to and fro."

Lorle had on the first morning a contest with Bärbel, because the good old woman only laid the table for two persons; no exhortations, and no beseechings that she would sit down and take her meals with them were of any avail, because she declared that it was not proper; nay, she even forbade Lorle to say anything to her husband on the subject, or else he would think her quite foolish.

At length the soup was on the table. Lorle said in silence her thanksgiving; Reinhard returned no thanks, and she again repeated her form of words instead of her husband.

As they were thus sitting together, Reinhard asked, "Are these our own plates, Lorle?"

"Yes, to be sure. Why do you ask?"

"Hurrah!" shouted he; "then now when I break a plate, I shall not have to pay the host. That is mine—all are mine!" and with that he took a plate and threw it exultantly on the floor."

"It is one of a complete dozen," said Lorle.

"There are only ten in my dozen," exclaimed Reinhard, and threw down another; then he danced round the table singing with Lorle.

"You are a wild fellow," said Lorle, laying together the broken plates; "I will go and fetch some more."

"No, we shall eat with one another out of the dish," said he.

"Quite agreeable to me," returned Lorle.

Bärbel came in, for she had heard the breakage; but Lorle told her that she need not that day bring any soap-plates, for they were going to eat out of the dish, and then they should do just as they did at home.

Reinhard introduced his wife to no one; she, indeed, needed nobody but himself; he was everything to her. He made his calls upon his superiors, his patrons, and his acquaintance; and when any of them congratulated him upon his marriage, he simply thanked them, and turned the subject.

The business of the picture gallery was by no means settled, although an officer was already appointed for it. There was to take place this winter an extraordinary meeting of the Diet, and which was best liked of all, it was to be merely summoned for financial purposes; to take into consideration, in case of the projected marriage, the money which would be required for the building a palace for the hereditary Prince; and, at the same time, the cost requisite for the building of a picture gallery was to be brought before them. The introduction of a law for the irrigation of meadows was to give the appearance of its being done for the public good.

Whilst Reinhard by these his visits obtained a comprehensive knowledge of the Court Guide, Lorle could not accustom herself to this city life. When everything in her house was made as clean and was arranged in as perfect order as possible, so that she had nothing at all left to do, Lorle prevailed upon Bärbel to come and sit with her in the parlour. It required a great deal of persuasion to induce her to do this; because Bärbel, who had lived in service more than thirty years, had her firm views—one may call them the laws—of a life of servitude, from which she very unwillingly departed. She always said to Lorle, "G tie-folks are gentlefolks, and servants are servants." It was not till everything was locked up that she consented, and went and sat with her "Madame" in the parlour, but a long way from the window, that she might not be seen by the people of the houses opposite; and then, if Reinhard, who had a pass-key to the door, came in unexpectedly, she would hastily retreat to her own regions, and could only be induced to stay by the most urgent entreaty. She might be permitted to do something a hundred times which was inconsistent with her station, but she never would look upon it as her right, and it was necessary to persuade her afresh every time. She had a certain pride in not yielding to the confidential tone. Her principle was this: if I treat you with respect, you also must treat me with respect; not one day set me down to table with you, and the next thrust me behind the door.

Reinhard saw, however, in this steadfast line of conduct only the ceremonious manners of the peasant; and, after this, he wasted but few words on Bärbel. In his absence, therefore, she sat with Lorle, busily chattering. Their habitation, although in a new portion of the city, was yet in the third story.

"Oh!" lamented Lorle to Bärbel one day, "it is so high up here, if there were a fire! and I am so sorry to think of you having to fetch water up such a height, it is so uncomfortable. Now just look down; it makes one dizzy, and one can only see the people's hat crowns. These townspeople, however, are very cunning; they build up here in the air because it costs nothing, and thus they save ground. But I shall not let Reinhard have any rest till he buys his own house, where we may live by ourselves, and not as if in a barracks. Now, just look, we can only get a peep from between the houses to the left, and there they have already begun to lay foundations; in a year's time we shall see nothing but stone walls before us."

When Reinhard came home, he was generally affectionate and gentle; the more deeply he looked into the movements of the Governmental machine and the life of a placeman, the more he became aware of the fetters under which he was placed, and his brain was in a tumult; for this reason, he felt all the more keenly the quiet peace which pervaded the atmosphere of his own home; he inhaled deep draughts of it and wished to retain it continually to himself; for this, indeed, he had sacrificed the freedom of his own way of life. Sometimes when he returned home thoughtful and with a troubled countenance, and Lorle would ask him the cause, he would reply, "Dear child, you never can or shall experience how brawling and crooked things are in the world. And you must not always be asking me what is the matter when you see me thus thoughtful, for I have many things to think of. Now be cheerful, and rejoice that you do not know much."

"I will never again inquire about what you think I should not know," replied Lorle.

Reinhard now, for the first time, experienced truly the delights of domestic life, and he again began to work industriously. Work gives a home-feeling, even to lonely, strange rooms; how much more, then, to your own dwelling with "those whom we love?" In the little chamber towards the north, which he had now fitted up for a temporary painting-room, he set about the completion of his picture, "The New Song," which he had begun in the village. Lorle was often with him, because he had said, "I pray you to come often to me when I am at work: I do everything better when you are with me. Even, if I do not talk to you; if I don't seem to mind you, yet you are to me like pleasant music in the room; I do everything better because of it."

Lorle by no means regarded the world around her as an established thing, precisely because she was in ignorance of the usages on which so much depends.

Reinhard very soon gave up every attempt to introduce his wife into the sphere of art and education; neither had she any yearning after it: that which was not palpable had no interest for her. He, too, found himself in the midst of the whirlpool of what was to him essentially a new world. He entered into "society," as it is called, *par excellence*, in which all those who do not belong to it are regarded as a rabble, very much to be commiserated. In the barrenness peculiar to society, Reinhard, its adopted child, became a refreshing element. In the commencement, he regarded this frequenting the drawing-rooms as a part of the duties of his office; it never entered his mind how melancholy it was that Lorle should have to sit at home so much alone. The extraordinary meeting of the Diet was called. The Prince had often talked over with Reinhard how that the *del-dage* of the centre of the new Palace should be adorned with the beautiful landscapes of the country, which Reinhard was to paint in fresco; whilst upon the frieze he was to represent the peculiar manners of the people, in which the figures were to be painted in the various costumes of the country. Reinhard was delighted to have such a work to execute, and which was sufficient for the performance of a life. He put aside his picture of "The New Song," and made all kinds of designs, the examination of which furnished rich material for conversation, and Reinhard by this means was in many ways the centre of society. It, however, turned out in the end that the Chamber of Deputies, by a large majority, not only refused to grant the money for the new Palace, but also for the Picture Gallery, because the necessities of the country were so great that they could not make any grants for these purposes. By a majority of only two, was the requisite sum obtained for Reinhard's stipend, and for the preparation of the Picture Gallery, and that in a room above the Royal stables. In revenge for this, the Government refused to allow of any reform in the establishment for the Teachers of the People's Schools, which had been agreed to on the former meeting of the Diet. The consequence of these obstacles was to implant a deep dissatisfaction in the mind of Reinhard, to which he added the belief that the Chamber of Deputies was adverse to art, which had only a hold in the Aristocracy. Hitherto, Reinhard had lived without any political opinions; he now adopted them.

(To be continued.)

THE REMAINS OF MIRABEAU.—When, on the proposition of Marat, the commune of Paris decided that the remains of Mirabeau should be removed from the Pantheon, his ashes were not thrown to the wind, as has been wrongly stated; but a municipal officer caused the body to be buried without pomp and without honour, in a corner of the cemetery of Chamart, where it has since remained forgotten. It appears that the fact is proved by an authentic *procès verbal*. It is announced that the municipality of Paris has just ordered researches to be made in the cemetery of Chamart to discover the remains of the celebrated orator, and that a tomb will be afterwards erected to him in Pere la Chaise.

THE LATE CHARGE AGAINST A NOBLEMAN.—A singular circumstance connected with the late charge against Lord W. Poullett has been published, viz.—that on Sunday night, two days after the affair had taken place, the shopman (Allen), who had made a most rigid search for the slippers, dreamed that they had been taken away by his Lordship. Upon mentioning this circumstance the following morning, it was recollected that Lord W. Poullett had been seen to take up a slipper while in the shop. In consequence of this dream, the inquiry was set on foot, the result of which is already known.

A LAMENT FOR THE HEROES OF OLD CHRISTMAS TALES—GHOSTS.

BY ANGUS B. REACH.

WHAT choppings and changings we're making,
'Tis old fashioned now to drink Toasts;
There's no one I know who wears Hessian Boots,
And none who're believers in Ghosts.
True, you may dream of such roccoco things
After supping on underdone pork;
But a genuine Ghost is as hard to be met
As a waggon 'twixt London and York!

Yet this was the time—the Christmas Time—

When, around the Christmas fire,
Such terrible stories we whispered all
Of phantoms shadowy grim and tall,
Who, instead of a palæto, wore a pall,
And death watches living on tick in the wall;
And goblins with eyes which would gleam and flash,
And skeletons sitting on chests of cash,
And departed ladies wan and pale
With hoop and brocade and farthingale,
Which rustled and waved, as, without ever banging
A door, they went out by the tapestry hanging.
And dozens of others, some of them lodging
In haunted houses grim and lone;
And some upon midnight commons trudging,
Where murderous deeds were long since done!

Where are they now? Pooh, pooh, sir,
Where is your last year's tin?
Where are they now? Pooh, pooh, ma'am,
Where is a last year's pin?
Gone—all—gone—though, perhaps,
After all, 'tis a great relief
That pauper ghosts can manage
Neither in-door nor out-door belief!

And yet it is not—I grieve to state
That our minds are so much improved of late:
Some folks believe in a pig-faced lady,
Some folks send letters to Joseph Ady—
Some folks espouse the "legitimists" part,
And a handful will still pin their faith to High Art;
But, whatever the whimsey which rules the roast,
There's no one will own a belief in a ghost!

Then, are we not, in sooth,
An irreverent set of dogs,
To have never a spectre tale
For our burning Christmas logs?
To say to our ancient friends,
"Come, pass on, Gentlemen, pass—
You really can't co-exist
With Chloroform, Steam, and Gas!"
Just think of a "haunted house"
In a newly run-up square—
Imagine a spirit of old
In a Cemetery taking the air.
Or think with what awkward names
A credulous man they would dub,
Who had solemnly whispered it round,
"He had just seen a Ghost at the Club."

So let it be—pass from our startled sight,
Ye ghastly shadows, into utter night;
Cease to afflict the sick man's darkened room,
Gibber no longer o'er the moonlit tomb;
You cannot give us, and we would not crave,
Knowledge of aught beyond the severing grave:
Ours be the earth: ours, until crack of doom,
The morning sunlight as the midnight gloom;
Yours—a domain, by human eye unseen,
Till Death has bridged the gulph which lies between.

THE THEATRES.

ADELPHI.

Possibly, one of the worst pieces we ever saw produced, at this house on Monday evening, under the title of "The Pearl of the Ocean." We are sorry to pronounce such a decided opinion upon its merits, for Mr. Webster's management of the Adelphi is liberal and spirited, and Mr. Selby's industry has supplied us with a host of entertaining pieces thereof: but judgment must have been at fault somewhere, when it was first determined to lay out so large a sum of money on the *mise en scene* of so ineffective a production; for the manner in which it has been upon the stage, most magnificent. Gorgeous dresses, suits of real clanging armour, elaborate machinery, and beautiful scenery, all combine to render the *ensemble* of the piece the nearest approach to the superb fairy spectacles of the Porte St. Martin, that has been aimed at on our stage for some time; and had all these accessories been wedded to a cleverly written burlesque, a long and brilliant run might have been ensured. But whenever the attention of the audience was not fixed by some great effect, they evinced remarkable indifference to the action of the plot—which it strikes us must be founded upon a story called "The Little Mermaid" that appeared some months back in *Bentley's Miscellany*. We were sorry to see Miss Woolgar, Mr. Wright, Mr. Muryard, and Mr. Paul Bedford, struggling against so much heavy business. There was not a good part in the spectacle: and Madame Celeste's appearance in a number of gorgeous costumes went for nothing. At the same time the character of the *Mermaid*, evidently meant to be the chief *role*, was not suited to her; indeed, we have seldom seen her to greater disadvantage. Her line is the picturesque, pantomimic, and melo-dramatic. In parts requiring the exhibition of pates or fascination, she entirely fails; hence, her appearance in a species of Albanian costume was as striking as her *Mermaid* was uninteresting.

But, whilst thus finding fault with the piece in itself, we must pay a well-deserved compliment to the beautiful manner in which it was mounted—of which we have before spoken. The outlay must have been enormous; the armour alone, in which the syrens were encased in the last act, appearing worth more than any sum lately spent upon the production of a play, not even excepting "Philip Van Artevelde." And, certainly, the effect of the twelve young ladies, thus accoutred, marching abreast down the stage, was very good; but, there was not, as in "Valse," a sufficient motive for their appearance. An admirable scene, also, was the harbour, with the arrival of the galley bearing the Prince. In this large ship came nearly up to the footlights, in the same manner as was once done in "Cherry and Fair Star." The piece commenced with some dissonant views, and ended with a glittering *tableau* of mermaids, warriors, and gaily-clad nobles, and peasants, in a water palace.

"The Pearl of the Ocean" will attract the holiday folks, without a question; but something more than this should have been aimed at. Had it been brought out at any other time, we expect the return of the money lavished upon it would have been a matter of some doubt.

THE Pantomime at DEURY-LANE will be called, as we hinted, "Friar Rush; or, Harlequin and King Gold;" the opening being partly taken from a story that appeared in a book, entitled "Tales of other Days," which George Cruikshank illustrated some years back. The style is of the old school. An old Baron, with a name that appears utterly unpronounceable, not very well off, falls in love with a woodman's daughter. She has, however, a young lover, and this originates a contest between the fairies and their ally, *Friar Rush*, on one side, and *King Gold* and his power on the other, to win the girl for their respective favourites—the youth and the *Baron*. After many interruptions to the course of true love, the characters are changed: the *Baron* to *Cloven*, and his henchman to *Pantaloone*—the young lovers turning to *Harlequin* and *Columbine*—and the comic business begins. The scenes comprise the Port of Boulogne, the Shakespeare House, Vauxhall Gardens, a country inn, a magic bedroom, the open sea, and several shops, streets, and well-known buildings; and the Lind mania, the Stratford-upon-Avon subscription, and other topics of the year are hit at.

The ADELPHI produces a somewhat novel entertainment—an Italian pantomime, in fourteen scenes, without a harlequin or clown, but supported principally by the carnival *Pierrot* and *Poichinel*. M. Legrand, the great French pantomimist, is engaged to sustain the principal character. He is the successor of Dubureau in this line; and his action is singularly expressive. He will be very well seconded by Mr. C. J. Smith.

The LYCEUM burlesque, by Mr. Planché, is to be called "The Magic Branch," and will embrace the entire strength of the company.

At the HAYMARKET, "The World Underground," by Messrs. Lemon and ABeckett, will bring forward Mrs. Keeley again in burlesque, in addition to the established favourites of the company.

Mr. Nelson Lee appears to spin pantomimes from his brain by about the same process as Dumas writes romances, Donizetti operas, Mr. James novels, or Mr. ABeckett jokes. At ASTLEY'S, the SUREX, and his own theatre, the STANBARD, he has supplied the pantomimes, as well as to the Birmingham Theatre Royal, the Sheffield, the Liverpool, the Dublin, and the comic scenes at the OLYMPIC.

In fact, were we to notice all, we might set up a "Nelson column" of our journal to commemorate his actions. The SUREX pantomime is called "Harlequin Battledore and Shuttlecock, or Trap, Bat, and Ball;" and at ASTLEY'S, as we stated, the renowned *Grizzle* of *Dr. Syntax* will be shown in a new light, under the tormenting influence of the evil spirits, *Sitting and Firefly*.

At the PRINCESS', "Old Father Time, or Harlequin and the Four Seasons," by Mr. Rodwell, is well spoken of in the *couleuses*; and will have the advantage of all his musical taste.

The OLYMPIC has put out a strong array of names in the bill prospectus, including that of Mr. Gustavus Brooke, the provincial tragedian, about whom great expectations are formed. Mr. Stuart, of the Haymarket, is also engaged, together with his daughter, Miss Laidlaw leaves the Lyceum, to be the *Columbine*—the best, perhaps, in London. Mr. Spicer is at the head of the management; and provided this gentleman collects authors of acknowledged talent round him, and does not act his own plays, he may succeed.

COUNTRY NEWS.

SUNDERLAND ELECTION.—The nomination took place on Monday for a member to represent this borough in the room of Mr. David Barclay, resigned. The polling took place on Tuesday, and terminated in favour of the local candidate, Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart., after a very keen contest. Both candidates were Radicals. The polling commenced at eight o'clock; at nine o'clock Sir H. Williamson headed his opponent by 25 votes, and continued to increase his lead until the close of the poll, when the numbers were, for—

Sir H. Williamson	..	..	..	725
Mr. W. A. Wilkinson	..	..	..	595
Majority for Sir H. Williamson	..	..	..	130

At the general election in August last, Mr. Williamson polled 569 votes only.

WELLS ELECTION.—Two candidates are in the field, viz., Mr. R. C. Tudway, of Wells, on the Conservative interest; and Mr. W. G. Hayter, the new Judge Advocate General.

SOUTH LANCASHIRE ELECTION.—An election to supply the vacancy caused by the determination of the doubly-elected Hon. C. P. Villiers to act for Wolverhampton, was held on Monday, at ten o'clock, in the large room of the Horse and Jockey Inn, Newton-in-the-Willows. Alexander Henry, Esq., a Liberal, was the only candidate. Mr. Cobden, who was received with loud applause, proposed Mr. Henry. Mr. Rathbone seconded the nomination. The address, customary on those occasions, having been delivered, the High Sheriff asked if there was any other candidate to propose, and no answer being returned, he declared, amidst loud cheers, that Alexander Henry had been duly elected. Mr. Henry returned thanks. W. Brown, Esq., M.P., addressed a few words to the audience, and, after a vote of thanks to the High Sheriff, the proceedings terminated.

INCENDIARY FIRES.—Repeated outrages of this nature have been committed of late throughout the country. On Sunday afternoon, the 12th inst., about two o'clock, a fire was discovered breaking out in a large wheat straw stack in the yard of Mr. Edward Staples, Exning (Cambridgeshire), which soon communicated to three wheat and two barley stacks, one large wheat straw, and one straw stack, which were entirely consumed. The buildings escaped, although the doors and frames were burnt, and damage done to the slating. The quantity of wheat consumed was from 200 to 300 coombs, about 200 coombs of barley, and the straw from about 400 coombs more of wheat and barley.—The *Aylesbury News* says that seldom a morning comes without the report of a fire having taken place during the preceding night, and that the greatest alarm reigns amongst the farmers in consequence.

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ORNAMENTAL CLOCKS.—Recently received from Paris, an unusual large variety of FOURTEEN-DAY CLOCKS, to strike the hours and half hours, in Ormolu, Marble, and China. The designs are Pastoral and Historical, and include a few of great merit in the style of Louis XIV. The price is four, five, and seven guineas each, and upwards. A. B. SAVORY and SONS, 9, Cornhill, London, opposite the Statue of the Duke of Wellington.

MUSICAL BOXES.—A large stock of the first quality, playing upwards of 600 airs, overtures, &c., including selections from the works of the following eminent composers: Mozart, Rossini, Donizetti, Auber, Strauss, &c. &c. A Catalogue of the Music is now published, and may be had gratis, on application to T. COX SAVORY and CO., Watchmakers, &c., 47, Cornhill (seven doors from Gracechurch-street), London.

SILVER PLATE, New and Second-hand.—T. COX SAVORY and Co's Pamphlet of Prices, with outlines, may be had gratis, or will be sent free if applied for by a paid letter. The contents are the prices, weights, and patterns of new and second-hand Silver Spoons and Forks, new and second-hand Tea and Coffee Services, Waiters, Silver-edged Plated Goods, the new plated on white metal Spoons and Forks, Watches, Clocks, Cutlery, Ladies' Gold Neck Chains and Jewellery.

T. COX SAVORY and Co., 47, Cornhill (seven doors from Gracechurch-street), London.

SILVER TEA SERVICES, of New Patterns.—A. B. SAVORY and SONS, Working Silversmiths, 14, Cornhill, London, opposite the Bank, respectfully inform their customers that they have recently finished a few new designs, in accordance with the present improved taste, and that they are sold at reduced prices from those customary in the trade.

Uxbridge Pattern. Strong Silver Tea-pot £10 18 0

Ditto Sugar-basin 6 14 0

Ditto Cream-jug 4 10 6

Ditto Coffee-pot 14 10 0

Complete £36 12 6

A variety of upwards of 50 Silver Tea and Coffee Services may be seen in the Show Rooms, and, on application, the illustrated price current, containing drawings, with the weights and prices of recent designs, will be forwarded to any part of Great Britain, Ireland, India, or the Colonies. Drawback on silver plate exported, 1s. 6d. per ounce.

ROYAL PAPIER MACHE WORKS.—JENNENS and BETTRIDGE, Manufacturers, by special appointment, to her Majesty and the Royal Family, Halkin-street West, Belgrave-square, London; and also at Birmingham.—At these Works are manufactured Papier Mache Trays, Tables, Chairs, Cabinets, Desks, Inkstands, &c. &c. JENNENS and BETTRIDGE'S Manufactures can be had at the Establishments above and at the Wholesale Houses and Retail Dealers in the United Kingdom; also, at their Correspondents in every important city in the world. N.B. All Goods marked with JENNENS and BETTRIDGE'S names are warranted.

Almost Ready, the Second List.

SUMMERLY'S ART-MANUFACTURES, designed by

Abelton, J. Bell, J. C. Horsley, R. Redgrave, A.R.A., Townsend, &c.

Tea-pot, in Metals £10 18 0

Fish Knife, in Metal 6 14 0

Glass Cake-dish 4 10 6

Bread Platter and Knife, in Wood 14 10 0

Champagne Glass 6 14 0

Shaving Brush 4 10 6

Decanter Stoppers 14 10 0

Sold by J. CUNDALL, 12, Old Bond-street, and all respectable dealers.

A picture catalogue sent on receipt of two postage stamps.

ELDERED'S REPOSITORY OF ART.

COPELAND'S STATUARY IN PORCELAIN.—We notice with pleasure the artistic effort now making in England to render the fine arts as perfect as possible in the above-named material, for which Mr. Copeland's potteries in Staffordshire are distinguished. From these works several beautiful specimens have been produced. The group, "Paul and Virginia," is a truly sweet composition, and most carefully executed. As a work in this material, a small bottle, just finished, ought to take precedence. The perfect execution of the chain is extraordinary, and never to be surpassed. Various groups are in active preparation. Amongst these, it is doubly gratifying to be enabled to refer to "The Royal Children," representing the four seasons, as a prominent feature. Next in interest is a prettily modelled bust of "Jenny Lind," by Joseph Durham. Great taste is shown by Mr. Hatnam's superintendence over these productions. Mr. Henry Eldred, of 168, New Bond-street, is also different in these much-desired carvings, Messrs. Willocks' Lady's Head terra-cotta, Mr. Goslin's terra-cotta, La Combe's terra-cotta, and Gumpert's terra-cotta. The three last named are from works at Paris, for which, we believe, Mr. Eldred is agent.—Court Journal.

An Artistically Illustrated Catalogue is in active preparation.

London: Adjoining the Clarendon Hotel, Bond-street.

HEALTH, COMFORT, AND LUXURY.—Patronised by her Majesty.—DELL'S PATENT BED WARMERS, recommended by the Faculty as the most safe and expeditious apparatus for warming beds. They are extremely portable, and indispensable in the Boudoir, being a decided luxury, and most beneficial to the invalid who may be suffering from severe cold or any other infirmity.—DELL'S CARTRIDGE WARMERS are equally portable and luxurious, and have been introduced in her Majesty's Steam Carriages on the South Western Railway. Ladies will find them a very desirable and comfortable apparatus for the carriage, particularly on leaving the drawing-room for the Opera or Theatre.—Sole Agents for the Patent, Messrs. HOWSE and GORING, dispensing chemists, No. 16, Titchborne-street, Regent's quadrant.

NIGHT LIGHTS.—The breakage and uncertain burning of

nightlights render them useless. The dirt, smoke, and smell from oil is very disagreeable. The inconvenience in not being able to move the common mortars after being lighted, and the liability of the paper taking fire, make them extremely dangerous articles, and should not be used. All these defects are remedied in CLARKE'S PATENT MORTAR LAMPS and LAMP MORTARS, which are clean, elegant, economical, and, above all, give three times the light of all mortars, and never injure the lamp. Solar Oil, 3s. 6d. per gallon; the cleaning oil, 1s. 6d. per gallon; Lamp Cottons, 4d. per dozen, for Cash only.—35 Albany-street, Regent's-park.

G. M. CLARKE'S sole establishment.—N.B. Orders by post, delivered to any part of Town within two hours of receipt.

GREAT BARGAINS IN LAMPS.—Upwards of a Thousand

beautiful M4 size CANDLE LAMPS, for burning Palmer's patent three-wick Candles, giving light equal to five wax candles, selling at 29s. and 31s. 6d. each, being little more than half the wholesale price; Magnum, Medium, and Oil Lamps, of the newest patterns, at very low prices.—Palmer's Patent Candles, 8d. per pound; Clarke's Russian Wax, 1s. 6d. per pound; genuine Sperm, 1s. 6d. per pound; genuine Tallow, 1s. 6d. per pound; and Dip of the finest quality.

Clarke's Express Pale Soap, 6d. per score; 50s. Mottled, 4s. 6d. and 6s. 6d. per cwt.; Old Brown Windsor, 1s. and 1s. 6d.; White Windsor, 1s. and 1s. 6d.; Clarke's Honey Soap, 1s. in tablets. Clarke's Patent Albany Oil, 5d. per gallon, equal to the finest Sperm, will burn in any lamp; and, from its extreme purity, lamps burning this oil will not require the cleaning oil, or any other, and warrant never to injure the lamp. Solar Oil, 3s. 6d. per gallon; Sperm Oil, 3s. 6d. per gallon; Lamp Cottons, 4d. per dozen, for Cash only.—35 Albany-street, Regent's-park.

G. M. CLARKE'S sole establishment.—N.B. Orders by post, delivered to any part of Town within two hours of receipt.

ORNAMENTS for the DRAWING-ROOM, LIBRARY, and

DINING-ROOM.—MR. TENNANT, 149, Strand, near Somerset-house, has just received a new and elegant assortment of Groups, Figures, Vases, Candlesticks, Inkstands, Beautiful Inlaid Bins, Paper-weights, Watchstands, &c., in Italian Alabaster, Marble, Bronze, and Derbyshire Spar.

GEOLOGICAL MINERALOGY.—MR. TENNANT, Mineralogist to her Majesty, 149, Strand, gives PRIVATE INSTRUCTION IN MINERALOGY, with a view to facilitate the interesting study of GEOLOGY, and of the application of Mineral Substances in the ARTS. He has a large and complete supply of ELEMENTARY COLLECTIONS OF MINERALS and FOSSILS, at Two, Five, Ten, Twenty, and Fifty Guineas each.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

BEARD'S COLOURED PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS, Mounted in Lockets, Brooches, Rings, &c.

85, KING WILLIAM-STREET, CITY, 34, PARLIAMENT-STREET, and the ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION, REGENT-STREET.

CURRALL and SON, Importers of COGNAC BRANDY, of the highest quality; choice Old Pale at 60s., and 1 Brown at 48s. per Dozen. Bottles, 2s. 6d. per Dozen; Champagne, 1s. 6d. per Bottle, 12s. 6d. per Dozen. Pale High-flavoured Sherry, at 38s. per Dozen. Excellent Dinner Dittos at 28s. per Dozen.—35, Bishopsgate-street Within.

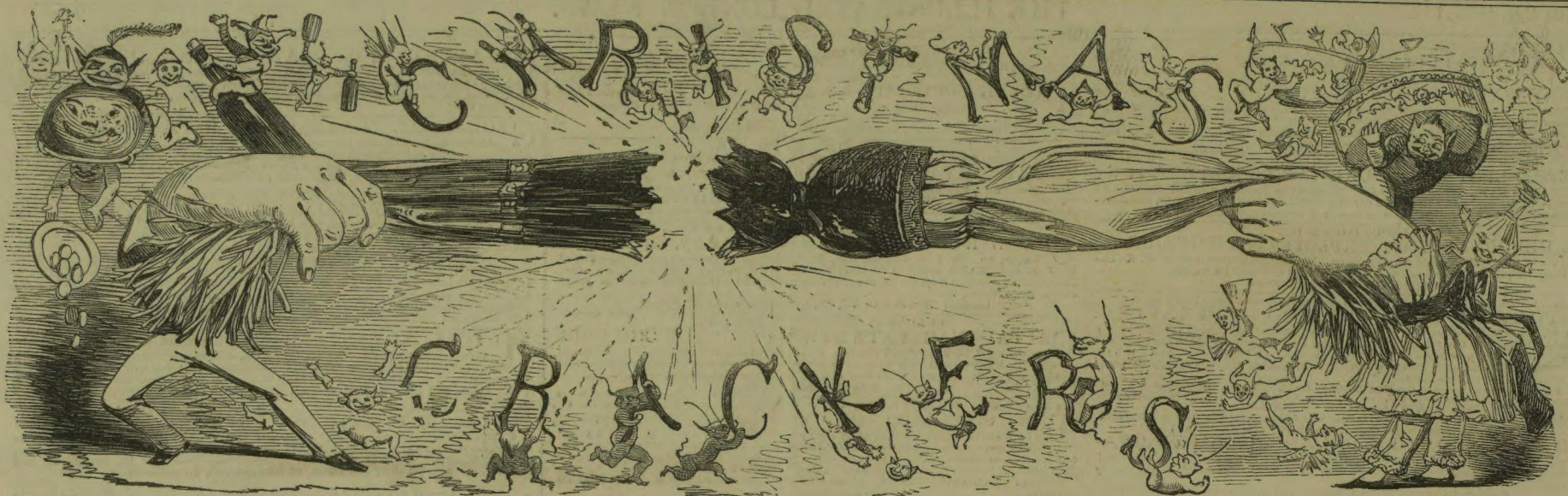
MUTUAL ADVANTAGE.—The extreme difficulty of converting any description of Goods into Cash, induces the Advertiser, who are large importers of WINE, to adopt this mode of informing the Public that they are open to receive any description of Goods in exchange for Wine in Bond, to amount from £15 to £1000.—Apply to W. FELL and CO., 20, Friday-street, Cheapside. Agents allowed Two-and-a-half per cent.

ROYAL CHOCOLATERIE OF FRANCE.—FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, a great choice of PARISIAN FANCY BOXES. Great Assortment of those comestibles the Chocolate, Macarons, Vanille, Voyage, Bonbons, Chocolates, Pistaches, Pralines, Figurines. Boite pour Adam's Eve, &c. Price per lb., 2s. 6d., 3s., and upwards. At A. BOUCHET and CO.'S, 52, George-street, Portman-square.


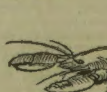
SHIRTS.—WHITELOCK and SON, 166, Strand, solicit the attention of gentlemen to the very superior Shirts they supply for 6s. 6d. each. They are made from Masland's patent long-cloth, the linen fronts, &c., with all the modern improvements in style, very best work, and guaranteed fit; also, all fine linen, 10s. 6d.; usual price, 14s. 6d. One sent as sample free per post, upon receipt of the amount, and 1s. added as part postage. The measure requisite is neck, chest, and wrist, taken tight.

METCALFE and CO.'S NEW PATTER TOOTH-BRUSH, and SMYRNA SPONGES. Useful Inquiry.—For proof of the extreme durability, power of cleaning, and true economy, ask all who have used Metcalfe's Tooth-brush. The Tooth-brush performs the highly-important office of searching thoroughly into the divisions, and cleaning in the most extraordinary manner; hairs never come loose; 1s. Peculiarly penetrating hair-brushes, with the durable unbleached Russia bristles, which will not soften like common hair. Improved Clothes-brush, that cleans hairlessly, in one-third the time. The new Velvet-brush, and immense Stock of genuine unbleached Smyrna Sponges, at METCALFE and CO.'S only Establishment, 130B, Oxford-street, one door from Holles-street.

SUPERIOR WINTER OVER COATS, WRAPPERS, and DRIVING CAPES, &c.—A Large Stock of the above, guaranteed to exclude any rain whatever, kept to select from, an inspection of which, by those who appreciate a genuine, respectable, and first-rate garment, at a moderate cost, is confidently invited; also of the well-known Light Over-Coat so universally adopted among the respectable classes, and unquestionably the most convenient, economical, and popular garment ever invented



NO. 1. CONUNDRUM AND ANSWER.

Y is a  like a 

cause E has a  his 

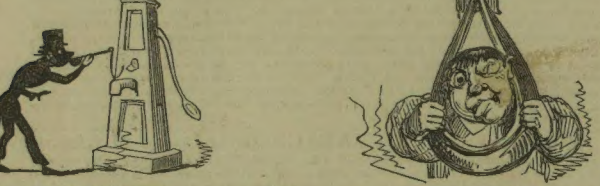
As a skater was sporting his elegant make in the Regent's-park, he was asked this con:—

"Why is this sheet of ice like a Canada lake?" D'ye give it up?"—

Because it's the lake you're on (Lake Huron).

2. One person tells another that he can put something into his right hand, which it is impossible the other can put in his left.—How is this to be done?


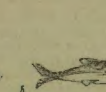
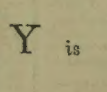
3. Which are the only two words in the English language wherein the five vowels follow each other in their proper order?



ANSWER: ABSTEMIOUS AND FACETIOUS.

4. How must a circle be drawn round a person placed in the centre of a room, so that he will not be able to jump out of it, though his legs should be free?

5. CONUNDRUM AND ANSWER.

W  is a  like a 

W  it's hard 

EASILY TIRED.—Produce a small stick, and tell some person present that he will be completely tired before he has carried it out of the room. If he deny your assertion take a penknife, and having cut with it a small piece the size of a grain of corn, desire him to take that out first; upon his return, give him a similar piece, and so on, until he confesses himself tired. This will soon be the case, as it is evident at he rate you can cut up the stick it will take him some months to carry it out of the room.

PICTURE PROVERBS.



"GREAT CRY AND LITTLE WOOL."

"A FRIEND IN-KNEED IS A FRIEND INDEED."



"AS A MAN MAKES HIS BED, SO MUST HE LIE ON IT."

"PAY AS YOU GO."



"PRAISE THE SEA, BUT KEEP ON LAND."

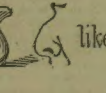
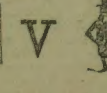
"IT'S NOT THE GAY COAT MAKES THE GENTLEMAN."



"ALL IS FISH THAT COMES TO THE NET."

6. WHAT is that which never was seen, felt, nor heard; never was, and never will be, and yet has a name?

7. CONUNDRUM AND ANSWER.

Y is  like the 

cause  ITS 

THE DANCING PEA.—Take a piece of tobacco-pipe, break it off even at the end, and with a knife or file work the hole rather larger, so that there may be a little hollow for the pea (which should be perfectly round) to rest in. Place the other end of the pipe in your mouth, hold your head back, and, keeping the pipe quite perpendicular, commence blowing gently, and the pea will dance about, leaping up sometimes to the height of two or three inches.

CONS UPON CATS.

8. WHAT IS MOST LIKE



A CAT LOOKING OUT OF WINDOW?

9. WHY IS





A CAT STANDING ON ITS HIND LEGS, LIKE THE FALLS OF NIAGARA?

10. My First's a little busy thing
My Second ladies do,
Impelled by love their flight to wing
My Whole—say, what are you?
An animal of swiftest pace,
Endowed with beauty, strength, and grace.

10. WHAT is that which is above all human imperfections, and yet shelters the weakest and wickedest, as well as the wisest of mankind?

11. CONUNDRUMS AND ANSWERS.

Y is a  like the 

Both make a  Na 

WINE AND WATER.—In a wine-glass, half full of water, drop a piece of bread, about as big as the top of your finger. Gently pour some wine upon it, and the two liquids will continue separate, the water remaining at the bottom of the glass and the wine floating on its surface.

12. WHY is a child with a cold in its head like a stormy day in winter

13. WHEN is a man thinner than a lath?

14. CONUNDRUM AND ANSWER.

W  is a  Debt

W  E has a  is paid 4

PICTURE PROVERBS.



"ALL ARE NOT HUNTERS THAT BLOW THE HORN."

"A CONTENTED MIND IS A CONTINUAL FEAST."



"BETTER LATE THAN NEVER."



"ANYTHING FOR A QUIET LIFE."

15. Four things there are, all of a height
One of them crossed, the rest upright:
Take three away, and you will find
Exactly ten remain behind;
But, if you cut the four in twain,
You'll find one half doth eight contain.

16. I WENT to a wood and got it—I sat down to look for it, and brought it home because I could not find it. What was this wonderful thing?


17. PRAY, youngsters who in witty things delight,
Say what's invisible, yet never out of sight?

18. How should a candle be placed so that every person shall see it except one, although he shall not be blindfolded or prevented from examining every part of the room, neither shall the candle be hidden?



SNAP DRAGON.

19. CONUNDRUM AND ANSWER.

Y is a busy body like a 

Both a 

20. Who swallowed a street, and where?

21. WHEN does a pie-man shed scalding tears?

22. WHY is learning like



"A BOWL OF PUNCH."

23. WHAT word is that which is made shorter by adding another syllable to it?

24. I'll throw an egg against a wall,
And it shall neither break nor fall!
How is this?

25. WHAT snuff-taker is that whose box gets fuller the more snuff he takes?

25. CONUNDRUM AND ANSWER.

WHY  R 

entitled to be ranked as great navigators

ANSWER.—Because they are always



CROSSING THE LINE.





26. WHY is a melancholy young lady the pleasantest of all companions?

27. WHY are fish in a thriving state like fish made to imitate them?

28. WHO was the first whistler, and what tune did he whistle?

29. CONUNDRUM AND ANSWER.

Y is a  like a 

cause he  things

30. WHEN was the King of Prussia the longest man living?

31. WHY is the fire like the Aphis Vastator?

32. WHAT is the difference between fish alive and live fish?

A FAREWELL.

A  

A  

(Answers in our next.)